

SIMON

WEBER

SPARTA

1. NEVER ASK FOR MERCY







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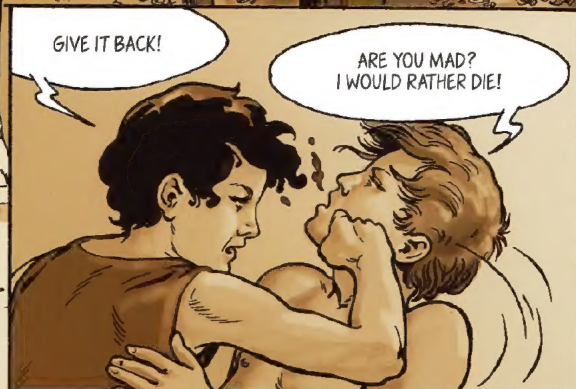
STORY - PATRICK WEBER

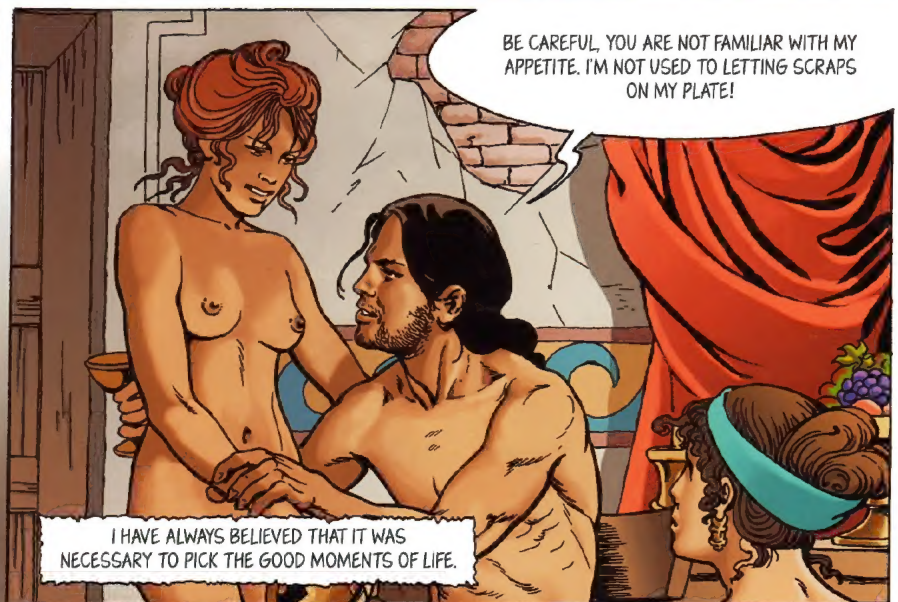
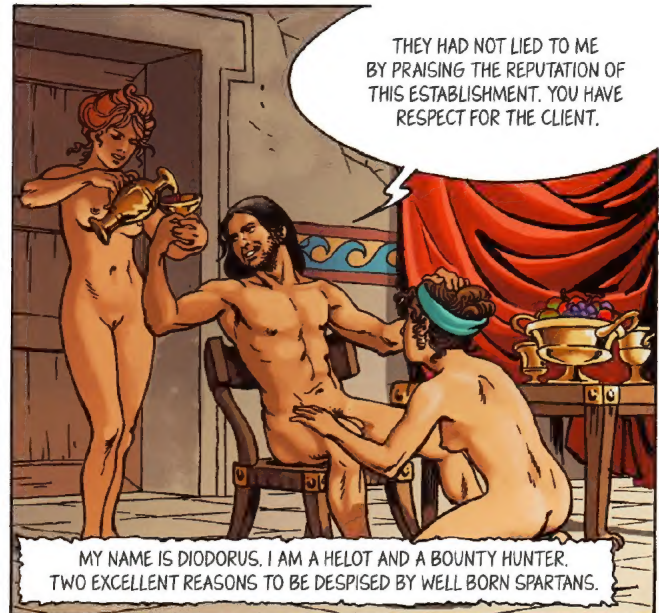
ART & COLOR - CRISTOPHE SIMON

OCR - LETO

CLEANING & COVERS - SABKO

TRANSLATION & TYPESETTING - SOSICH





HERE, TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OF IT! WE NEEDED A DIVINE NECTAR TO SEAL OUR DEAL.

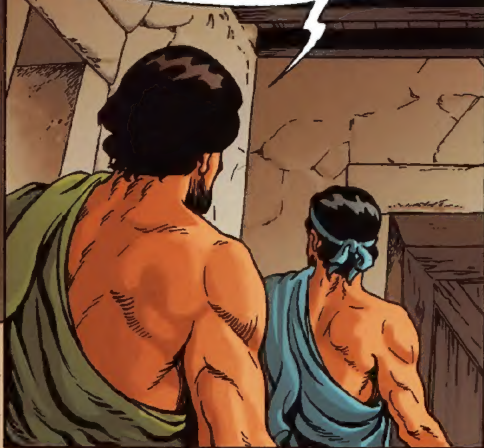


HERE'S TO NICE WEAPONS I HAVE JUST SOLD YOU!

AND TO DRACHMAS THAT WILL MAKE YOU RICHER A LITTLE MORE... IF THIS IS POSSIBLE.



IN A GOOD TRADE, IT'S NOT THE MONEY THAT MATTERS, IT'S THE SATISFACTION OF MY CLIENTS! LEAVE THROUGH HERE, IT'S MORE DISCREET.



BUT?!

IF YOU SCREAM, I WILL CUT YOUR HEAD OF LIKE A CHICKEN!

IT... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK... I CAN EXPLAIN!

SO, SCHEMING WITH THE WORST ENEMIES OF OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY?

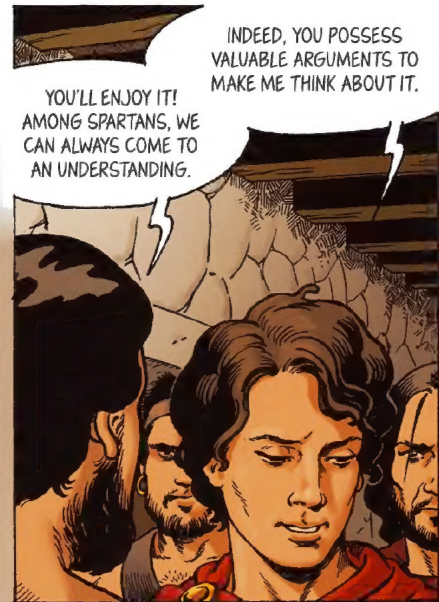




HERE YOU ARE... I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT AS A GIFT.



IT BELONGS TO YOU! AND I CAN GIVE YOU ANOTHER... JUST LIKE THIS ONE! I WILL NOT TURN YOU IN...



YOU'LL ENJOY IT! AMONG SPARTANS, WE CAN ALWAYS COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.

INDEED, YOU POSSESS VALUABLE ARGUMENTS TO MAKE ME THINK ABOUT IT.



BUT? WHAT...?! AAAARGH...



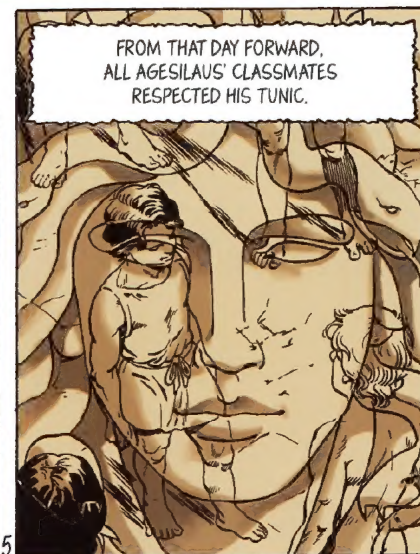
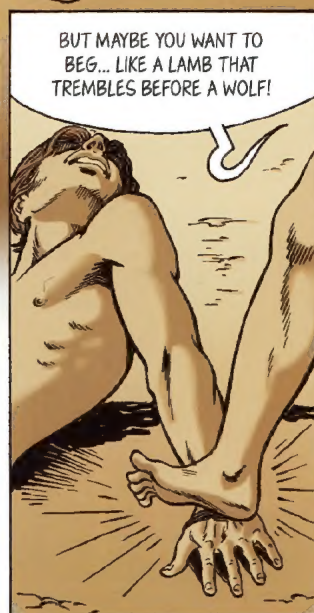
YOU ARE RIGHT, HECTOR... AMONG SPARTANS, WE CAN ALWAYS COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.



BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL YOURSELF SPARTAN. YOU ARE A TRAITOR. AND FOR ME, THE BLOOD OF TRAITORS IS NEVER COLD ENOUGH.



HECTOR! WHERE ARE YOU? I 'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE... OOOH! BY THE GODS!





HEY, DIODORUS!



NESTOR, MY BEST FRIEND. THE KIND OF MAN THAT INSISTS AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T RECEIVE AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTIONS...

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOU OLD MAN? I THOUGHT YOU HAD BETTER THINGS TO DO TODAY... DON'T TELL ME THE GIRLS OF EROS WERE NOT TO YOUR LIKING!



A BAD HABIT THAT MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS.

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? TO THE PALACE? DON'T TELL ME YOU PREFER THE WHORES OF NABIS TO THOSE OF EROS. I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST THEM, BUT LET ME WARN YOU THAT THEY HAVE HAIRY LEGS!



NESTOR, I AM "SUMMONED" BY THE KING... I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING WHEN I KNOW WHY!

WHAT IS THIS NONSENSE? WAIT... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO LET THEM TAKE YOU! SINCE WHEN DO YOU OBEY ORDERS OF NABIS THE TYRANT LIKE A SHEEP?



MOVE ASIDE! BY ORDER OF THE KING!

MOVE ASIDE? I DON'T TAKE ORDERS!

SHUT UP, NESTOR! DON'T FORGET THAT I'M A HELOT. JUST AS YOU USED TO BE.



THE OTHER NESTOR'S PROBLEM IS THAT HE'S VERY SUSPICIOUS.

HANDS OFF!



DON'T MIND HIM!
MY FRIEND IS VERY...
IMPULSIVE!

TOC!



WHAT ENERGY! THE WORDS
YOU HAD USED TO DESCRIBE
HIM ARE NOT WRONG!

YES, MY KING. EVERYONE IN
SPARTA KNOWS DIODORUS...
BUT NOT MANY PEOPLE WANT
TO CONFRONT HIM!



AND THAT'S EXACTLY
WHAT WE ARE GOING
TO DO!



YOU DESERVE TO
SPEND THE NIGHT IN PRISON!
DON'T YOU EVER FIND YOUR-
SELF ON OUR PATH AGAIN!

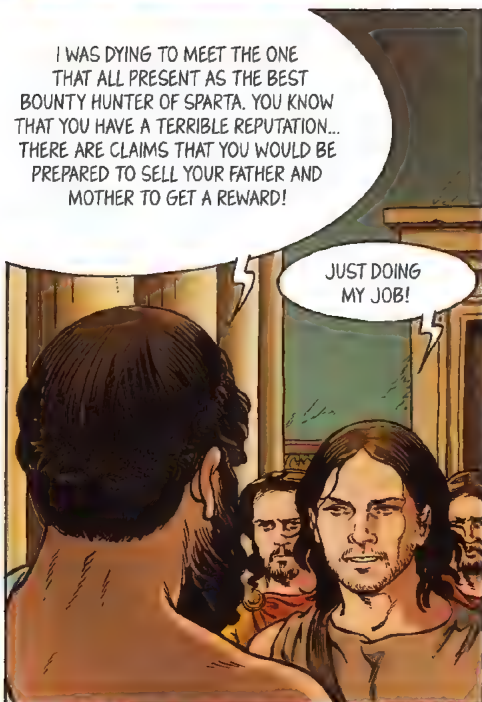
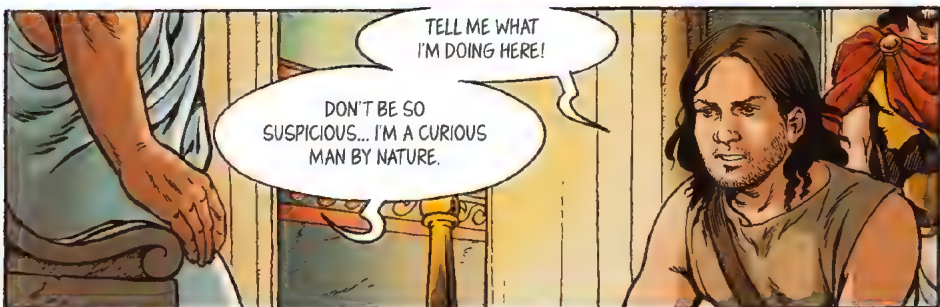
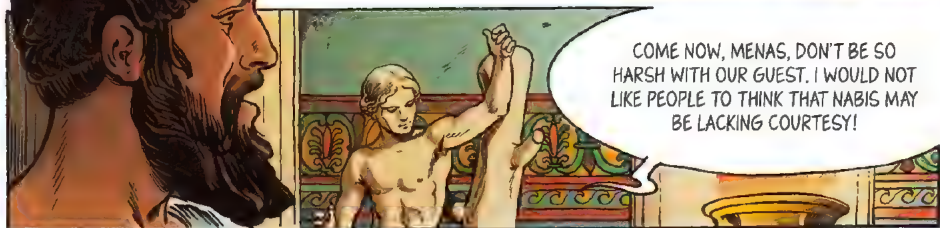
KEEP YOUR GOODWILL
FOR YOURSELF... I DON'T
NEED IT.



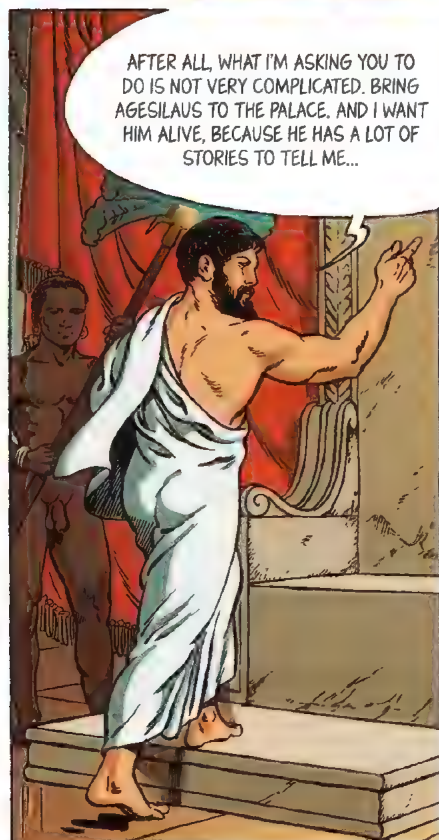
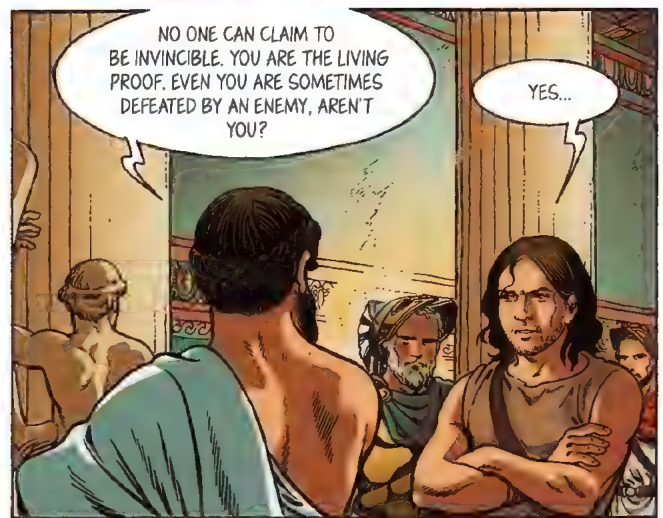
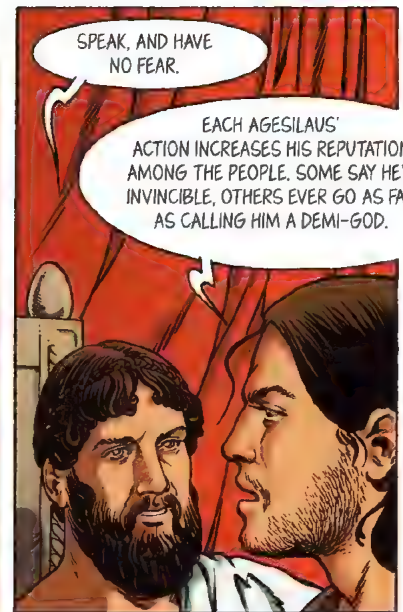
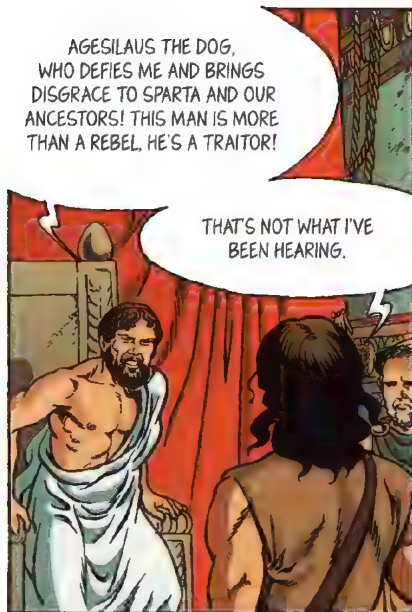
NESTOR, FORGIVE ME FOR
MY ELBOW BLOW, BUT YOU DIDN'T
WANT TO LISTEN! AND ABOVE ALL,
DON'T WORRY, IT WOULD TAKE MORE
THAN THAT TO IMPRESS ME.

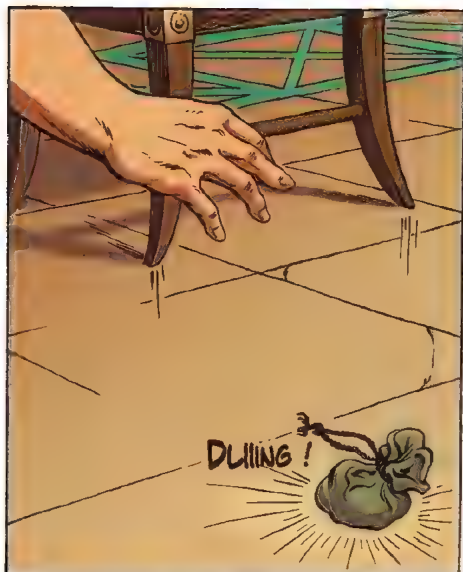


I'M NOT EASILY IMPRESSED. I'M MORE OF A SUSPICIOUS TYPE, ESPECIALLY WITH ONE NAMED NABIS.









JUST TAKE A LOOK, DIODORUS.
YOU NEVER KNOW... THE CLIENT THAT
HAS CHOSEN YOU MIGHT HAVE VALID
ARGUMENTS!

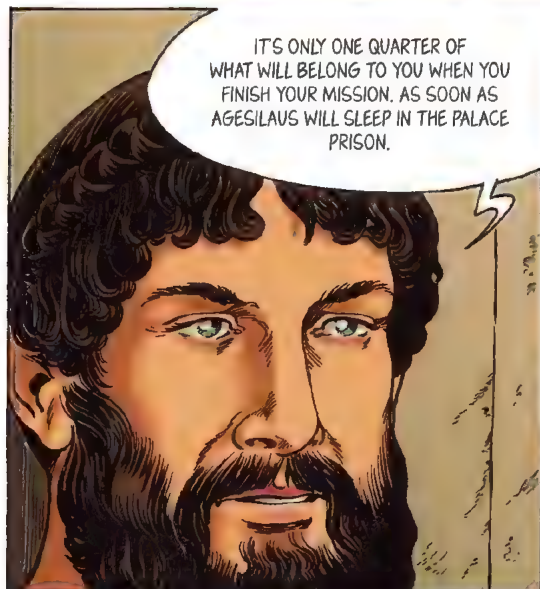


ARGUMENTS, IT MUST BE
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS DEMON HAS
PLENTY OF THOSE.

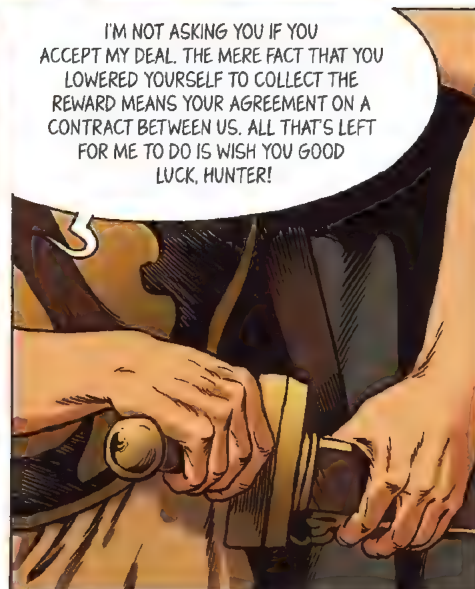
YOU MUST
ADMIT THAT'S ALREADY
A NICE SUM.



IT'S ONLY ONE QUARTER OF
WHAT WILL BELONG TO YOU WHEN YOU
FINISH YOUR MISSION. AS SOON AS
AGESILAUS WILL SLEEP IN THE PALACE
PRISON.



I'M NOT ASKING YOU IF YOU
ACCEPT MY DEAL. THE MERE FACT THAT YOU
LOWERED YOURSELF TO COLLECT THE
REWARD MEANS YOUR AGREEMENT ON A
CONTRACT BETWEEN US. ALL THAT'S LEFT
FOR ME TO DO IS WISH YOU GOOD
LUCK, HUNTER!



AGESILAUS WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE...
AND I WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH
POLITICS. LET'S RECONCILE WITH OUR ENEMIES
AND ESTABLISH A NEW LEAGUE, BUT THIS TIME
WITH THE ACHAEANS.

WITH THE
ACHAEANS?



WHY NOT? AND ONCE WE WILL BE FRIENDS
AND THEIR DISTRUST IS PUT TO SLEEP, WE CAN
EASILY ELIMINATE THEIR LEADERS. FOR THE
GREATER GLORY OF SPARTA, DESPITE WHAT
WE ARE TOLD BY THOSE WHO CHALLENGE
MY WAY OF GOVERNING.

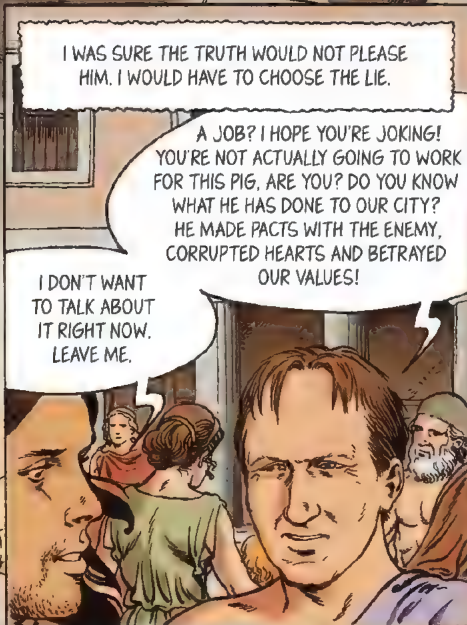




NESTOR! I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN. WHAT DO I DO? DO I LIE TO HIM OR PLAY FAIR?

AND? THEY LET YOU OUT? WHAT DID THIS COWARD TELL YOU?

HE GAVE ME A JOB.



I WAS SURE THE TRUTH WOULD NOT PLEASE HIM. I WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE THE LIE.

A JOB? I HOPE YOU'RE JOKING! YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING TO WORK FOR THIS PIG, ARE YOU? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE HAS DONE TO OUR CITY? HE MADE PACTS WITH THE ENEMY, CORRUPTED HEARTS AND BETRAYED OUR VALUES!

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW. LEAVE ME.

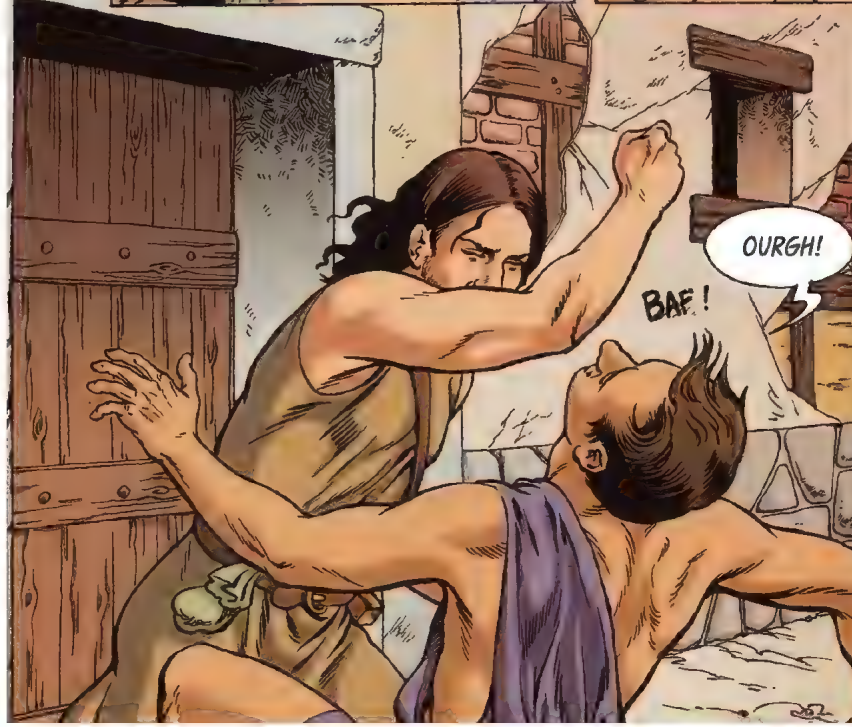


DON'T WANT TO TALK? AND YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU DO IT? YOU MAY BE A BOUNTY HUNTER, BUT YOU HAVE YOUR HONOR: YOU ARE A MAN!

I AM A HELOT AND I HAVE TO DO IT.



NO, DIODORUS! YOU WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN.

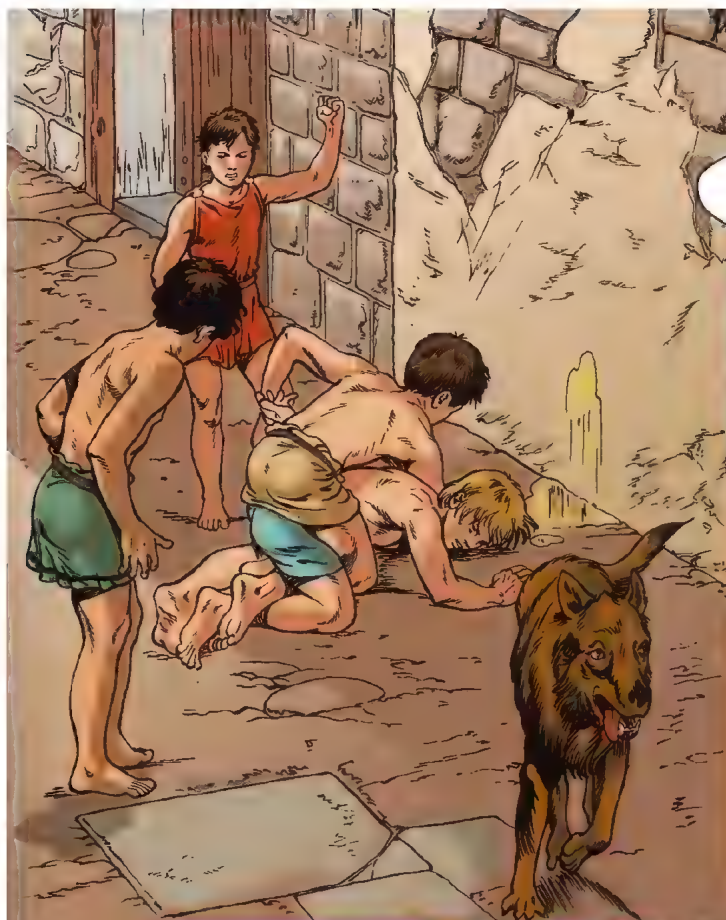


OURGH!

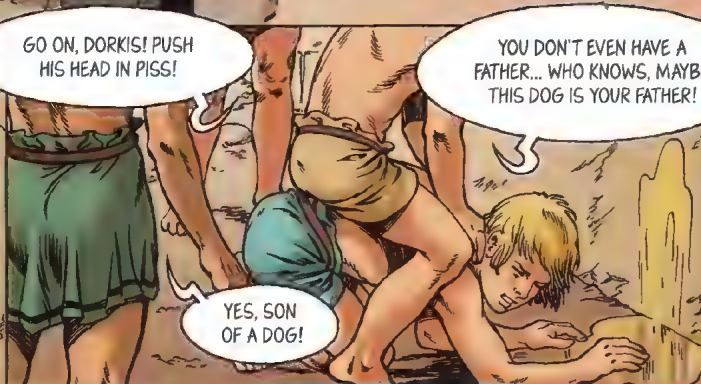
BAF!



SORRY, NESTOR, BUT TODAY YOU'RE REALLY COMPLICATING MY LIFE!

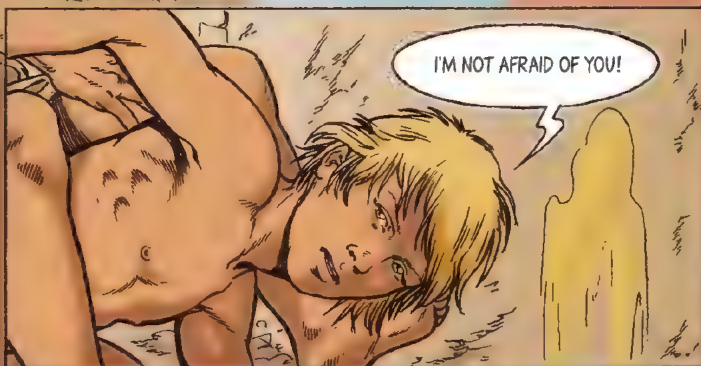


GO ON, DORKIS! PUSH HIS HEAD IN PISS!



YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A FATHER... WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THIS DOG IS YOUR FATHER!

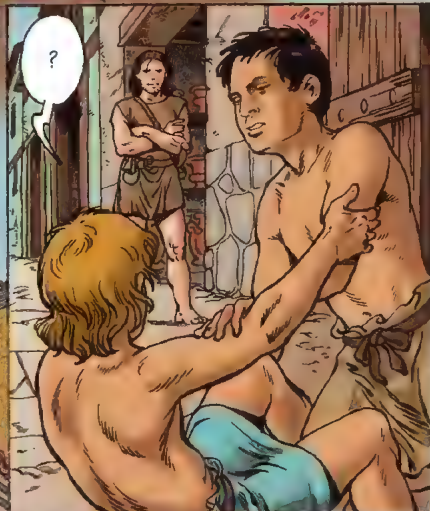
YES, SON OF A DOG!



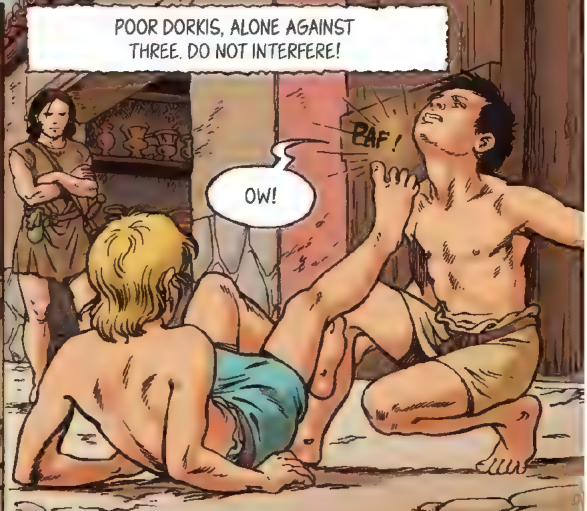
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!



THERE ARE DAYS WHEN NOTHING GOES THE WAY WE PLANNED.



?



POOR DORKIS, ALONE AGAINST THREE. DO NOT INTERFERE!

OW!

BAF!

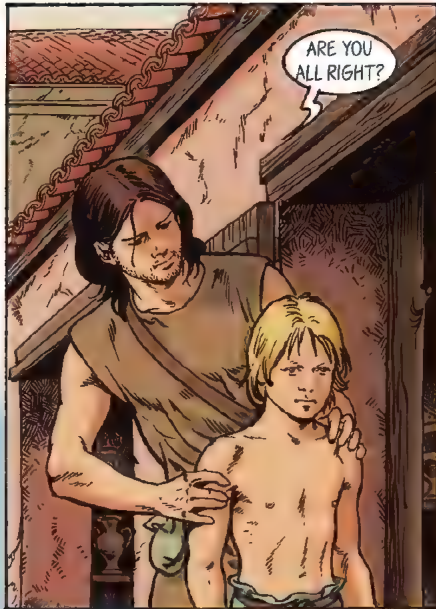


BAF!

BAN!



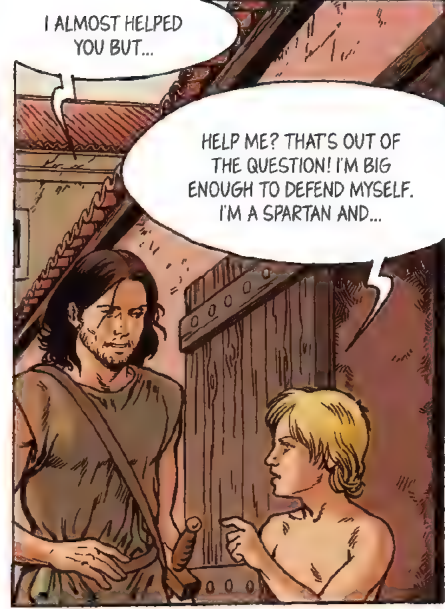
YOU'LL GET IT SOONER OR LATER! WE'LL COME BACK!



ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?



YES... WHY
WOULDN'T I BE ALL
RIGHT?



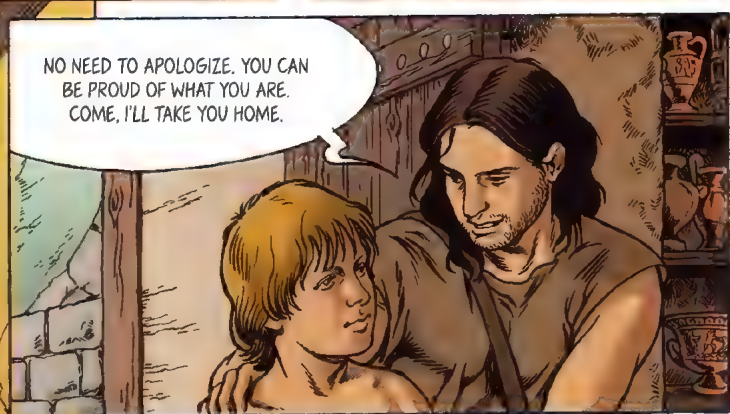
I ALMOST HELPED
YOU BUT...

HELP ME? THAT'S OUT OF
THE QUESTION! I'M BIG
ENOUGH TO DEFEND MYSELF.
I'M A SPARTAN AND...

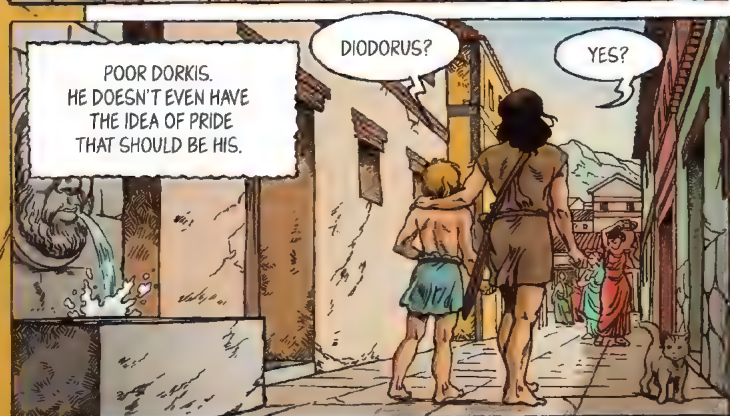


...AND I'M NOTHING BUT A
HELOT, I KNOW!

ER... THAT'S NOT WHAT I
WANTED TO SAY...



NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE. YOU CAN
BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU ARE.
COME, I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.



POOR DORKIS.
HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE
THE IDEA OF PRIDE
THAT SHOULD BE HIS.

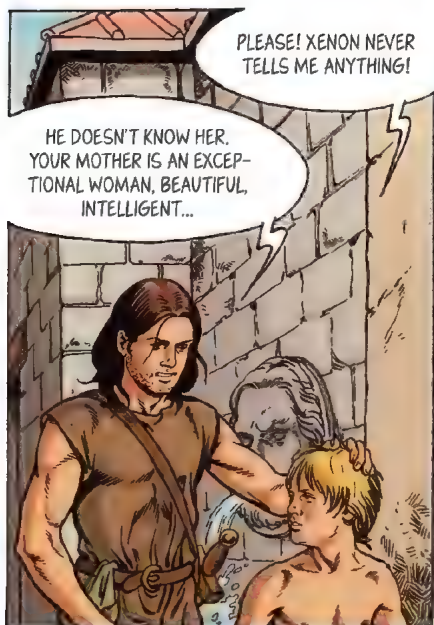
DIODORUS?

YES?



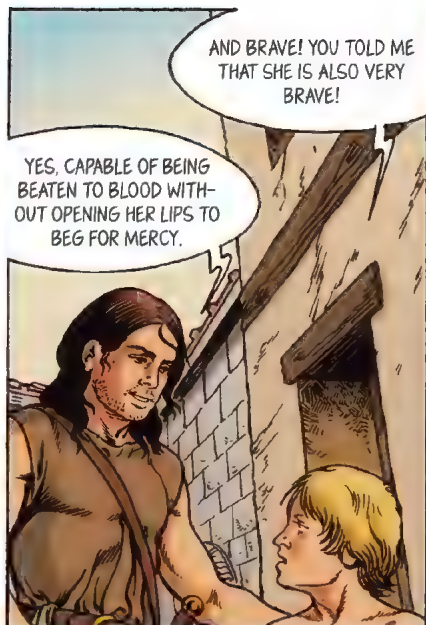
TELL ME ABOUT
HER AGAIN.

AGAIN? WILL YOU
NEVER KNOW ENOUGH?



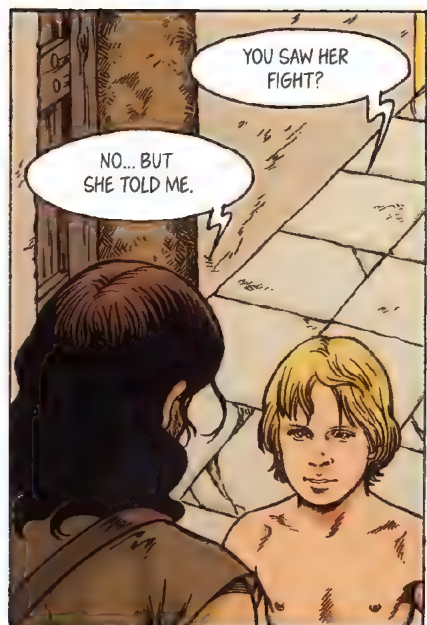
PLEASE! XENON NEVER TELLS ME ANYTHING!

HE DOESN'T KNOW HER. YOUR MOTHER IS AN EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN, BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT...



AND BRAVE! YOU TOLD ME THAT SHE IS ALSO VERY BRAVE!

YES, CAPABLE OF BEING BEATEN TO BLOOD WITHOUT OPENING HER LIPS TO BEG FOR MERCY.



YOU SAW HER FIGHT?

NO... BUT SHE TOLD ME.



WILL SHE BE BACK SOON?

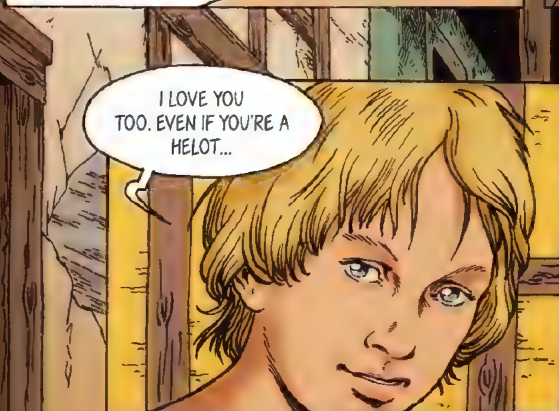
YES! BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE HER A BIT MORE TIME. SHE LOVES YOU VERY MUCH.



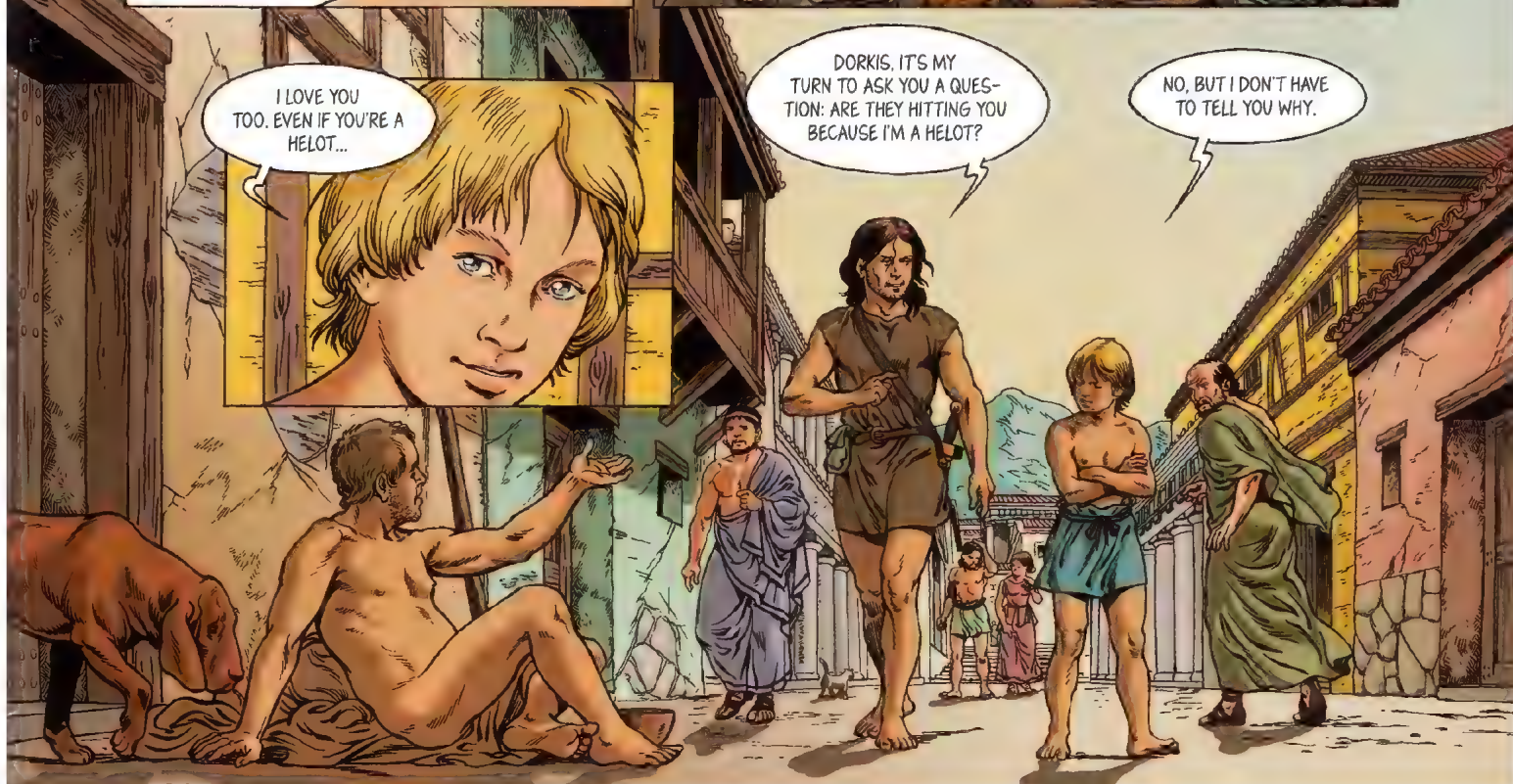
IF YOU ONLY KNEW HOW MUCH I WANT HER BACK, TOO!

DIODORUS?

YES?



I LOVE YOU TOO. EVEN IF YOU'RE A HELOT...



DORKIS, IT'S MY TURN TO ASK YOU A QUESTION: ARE THEY HITTING YOU BECAUSE I'M A HELOT?

NO, BUT I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHY.

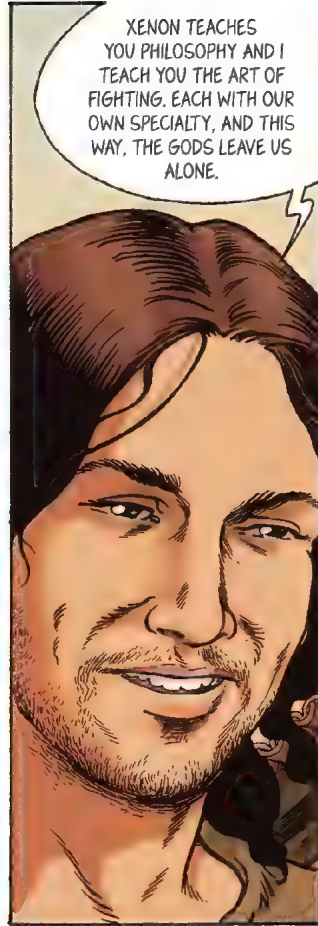


YOU'RE RIGHT. A TRUE SPARTAN DOESN'T HAVE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.



THERE'S YOUR HOUSE! AND LOOK, XENON IS WAITING FOR US!

HE'S GOING TO SHOUT AGAIN BECAUSE I GOT INTO A FIGHT.

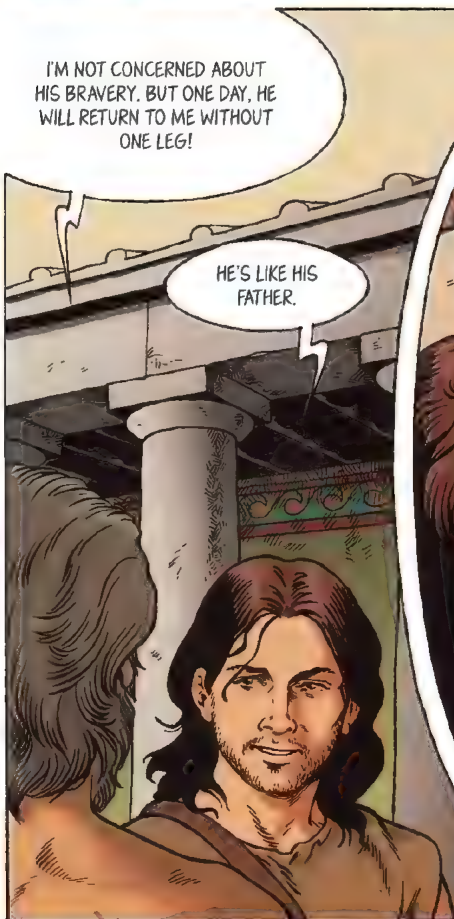


XENON TEACHES YOU PHILOSOPHY AND I TEACH YOU THE ART OF FIGHTING. EACH WITH OUR OWN SPECIALTY, AND THIS WAY, THE GODS LEAVE US ALONE.



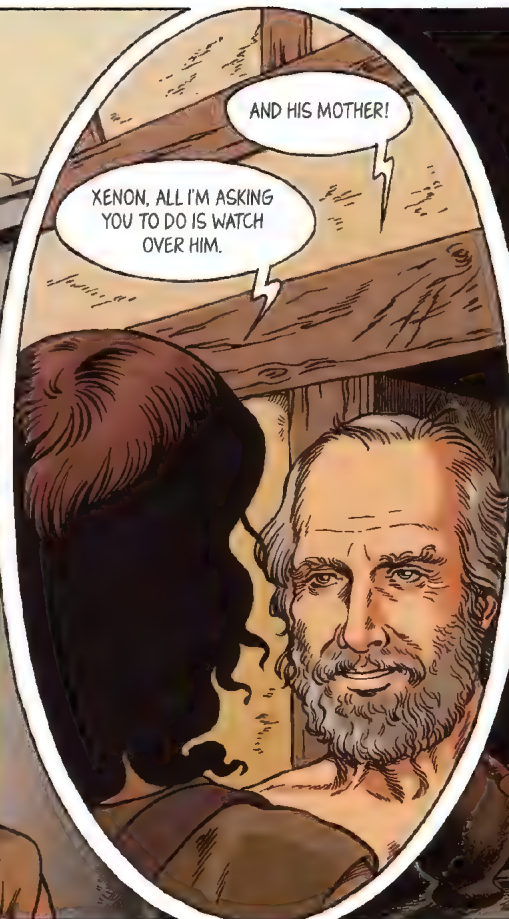
DORKIS! BUT YOU'RE BLEEDING! YOU LITTLE SAVAGE, YOU'LL END UP KILLING ME... HURRY AND SPLASH SOME WATER ON YOUR FACE!

DON'T SCOLD HIM, HE WAS BRAVE.



I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT HIS BRAVERY, BUT ONE DAY, HE WILL RETURN TO ME WITHOUT ONE LEG!

HE'S LIKE HIS FATHER.



AND HIS MOTHER!

XENON, ALL I'M ASKING YOU TO DO IS WATCH OVER HIM.



I KNOW... YOU EVEN PAID VERY PROPERLY FOR THIS. BUT YOU WON'T STOP ME FROM THINKING THAT THIS CHILD WOULD BE BETTER SOMEWHERE ELSE. OR AT LEAST SAFER. IF PEOPLE DISCOVER WHO HE IS...

NOBODY WILL FIND OUT!

DORKIS LIVES HERE, IN HIS HOMELAND. HE WILL GROW UP IN SPARTA AND UNDERGO THE STRICT EDUCATION THAT MADE HIS ANCESTORS THE MEN WE CAN BE PROUD OF. CAN I COUNT ON YOU?

YOU KNOW ME: WHEN I MAKE A COMMITMENT, I KEEP MY WORD TO THE END.

I TRUST YOU, XENON. AND KNOW THAT THINGS WILL SOON CHANGE... I'M ON A VERY BIG CASE.

AND NATURALLY, YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT IT IS.

NO, BECAUSE...

YOU'VE TOLD ME A HUNDRED TIMES: THE LESS I KNOW, THE SAFER HE WILL BE.

I LEFT XENON, AND ON MY WAY BACK, I THINK OF HELEN. WHERE WAS SHE? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER? A WOMAN LIKE THAT COULDN'T HAVE JUST DIED...

WHILE WALKING, I TOLD MYSELF THAT BY WINNING NABIS' CONFIDENCE, I MIGHT ALSO FIND HER TRACE.

ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY TOLD ME, HE WAS THERE ON THE DAY OF HER ABDUCTION.

LATE AFTERNOON ON MOUNT PARNON,
NEAR SPARTA.

AND SO I TOLD HER
TO SHOW ME HER BUTTOCKS!
AS A CHARITY TOWARDS A
POOR BLIND MAN...

AND DID SHE
DO IT? DID SHE BE-
LIEVE YOU?

YOU KNOW THOSE GIRLS
FROM THE HARBOR, THEY ARE
NOT KNOWN FOR BEING SHY.
AND THEY HAVE THE HEART IN
THE RIGHT PLACE...

AND YOUR HAND
ON THE BUTTOCKS! NOW
YOU MADE ME WANT TO GO!
ALTHOUGH, WHEN I THINK OF
THE LAST ONE I HONORED, I
WOULD HAVE PREFERRED
TO BE BLIND!

HA! HA! HA!

YOU HAVE NOTHING
BETTER TO DO THAN
LAUGH?

ER, NO... HE TOLD ME A
STORY AND...

WE'RE JUST
HAVING A LITTLE
FUN. THAT'S ALL,
AGESILAUS!

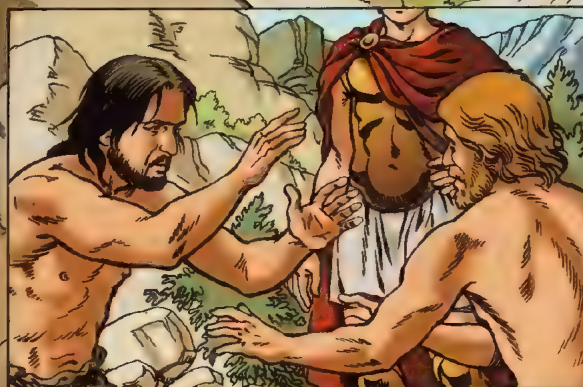
WHAT?

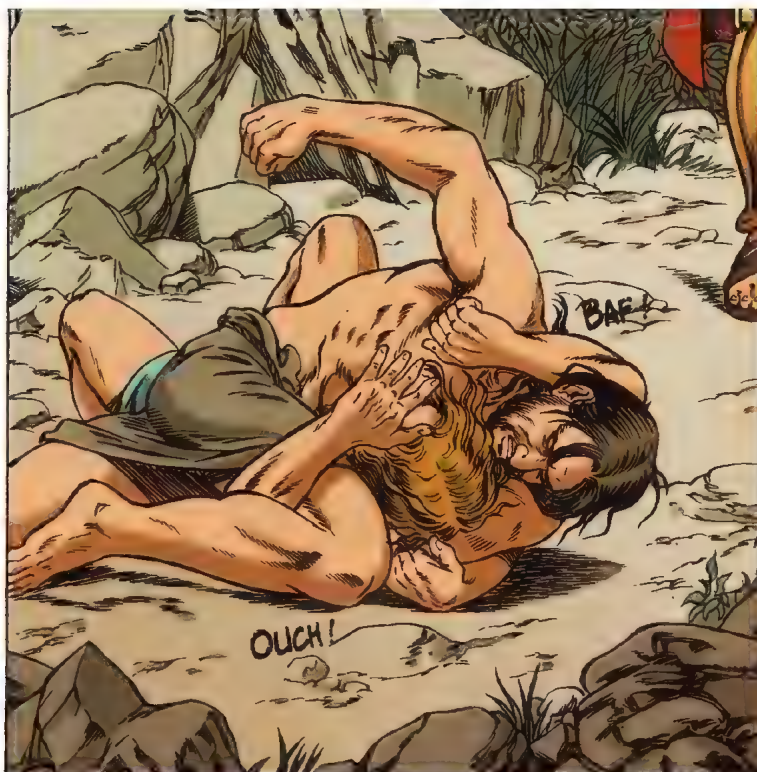
WHEN A SPARTAN
DOESN'T KNOW WHAT
TO DO, HE FIGHTS!

I AM DISAPPOINTED
BY YOUR ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY
BY YOU, DENIS. YOU KNOW I
CONSIDER YOU ONE OF MY BEST
MEN. YOU SHOULD FIGHT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
FIGHT TO THE DEATH?

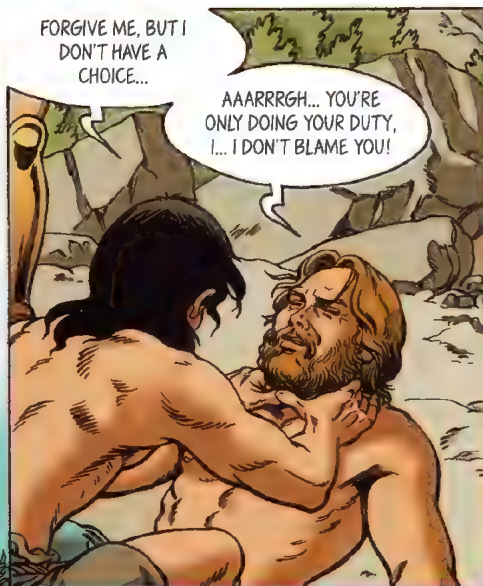
DO YOU KNOW
OF ANY OTHER WAY OF
FIGHTING?





GO, DENIS!

NO MERCY!

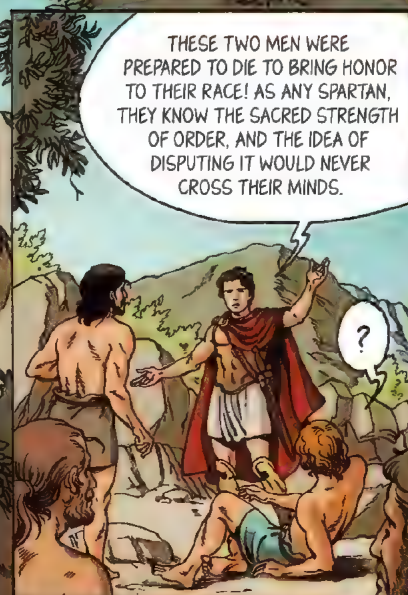


FORGIVE ME, BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE...

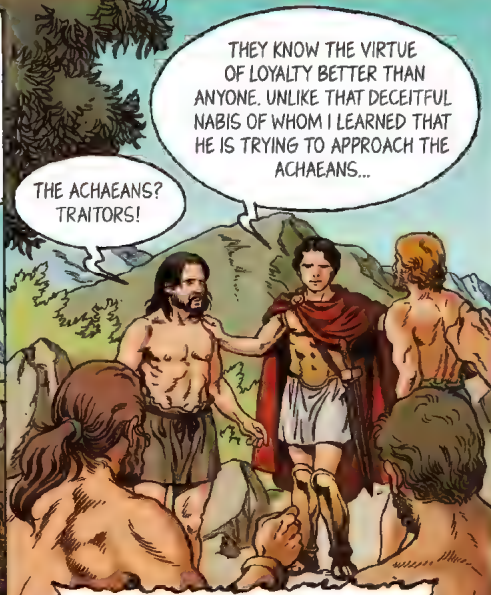
AAARRRGH... YOU'RE ONLY DOING YOUR DUTY, I... I DON'T BLAME YOU!



TRUCE!



THESE TWO MEN WERE PREPARED TO DIE TO BRING HONOR TO THEIR RACE! AS ANY SPARTAN, THEY KNOW THE SACRED STRENGTH OF ORDER, AND THE IDEA OF DISPUTING IT WOULD NEVER CROSS THEIR MINDS.



THE ACHAEANS? TRAITORS!

THEY KNOW THE VIRTUE OF LOYALTY BETTER THAN ANYONE. UNLIKE THAT DECEITFUL NABIS OF WHOM I LEARNED THAT HE IS TRYING TO APPROACH THE ACHAEANS...

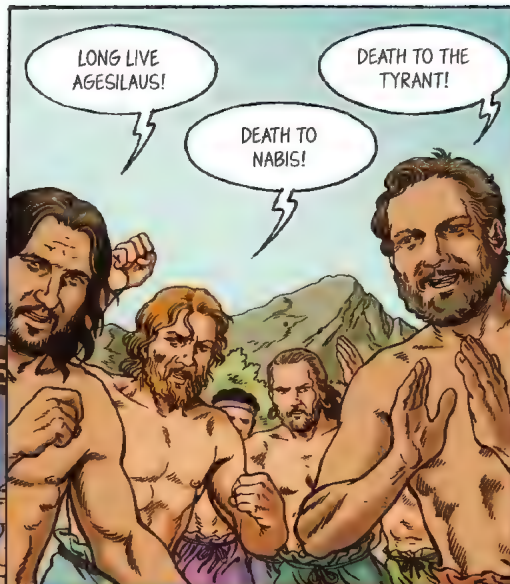


YES, MY FRIENDS! WE WILL ALL FIGHT UNTIL THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD TO SAVE SPARTA FROM THIS HUMILIATION. WE WILL FIGHT THIS USURPER RELENTLESSLY!

DEATH TO NABIS! LET US KILL HIM!



WE WILL NEVER BOW OUR HEADS! WE WILL OVERCOME NABIS THE TYRANT AND THE REST OF HIS KIND.



LONG LIVE AGESILAUS!

DEATH TO THE TYRANT!

DEATH TO NABIS!



LATER IN PATRAS.

GREETINGS, ACHILLES THE ACHAEAN. FORGIVE MY SWEAT, BUT IT'S VERY HOT UNDER THIS RIDICULOUS MASK!

YOU KNOW OUR AGREEMENT. NO PERSON SHALL KNOW YOUR FACE, NOT EVEN ME! NOR MEMBERS OF THE ACHAEAN LEAGUE. GORGIAS, GET OUT OF HERE! HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU THAT I WANT TO BE ALONE WHEN I'M SETTLING IMPORTANT AFFAIRS?



IT'S NOT IMPORTANT WHO YOU ARE. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS ARE THE GOOD NEWS YOU BRING, AND ESPECIALLY THE FACT THAT YOU CONTINUE TO INSTILL YOURSELF IN THE VAIN HEARTS OF THE SPARTANS.

NABIS WANTS TO APPROACH THE ACHAEANS AND FORM A NEW LEAGUE THAT WOULD MAKE SPARTA YOUR ALLY.

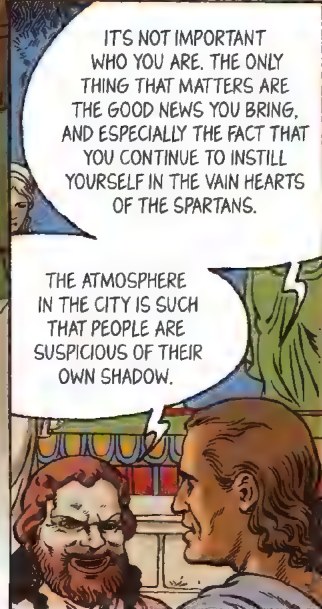
NO, HE WANTS TO PUT YOUR TRUST TO SLEEP, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO BETRAY YOU LATER...

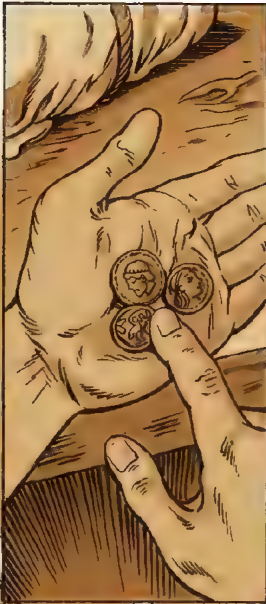
GORGIAS! ESCORT OUR VISITOR. AND DON'T FORGET TO REWARD HIM FOR HIS GOOD NEWS!

THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE CITY IS SUCH THAT PEOPLE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF THEIR OWN SHADOW.

OUR ALLY? DID OUR DEAR NABIS LOSE HIS REASON OR IS HE FINALLY AWARE OF HIS INFERIORITY?

NOW I AM DELIGHTED! NABIS REMAINS THE TRAITOR HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND I WILL DRINK TO THIS GOOD NEWS FOR THE LEAGUE. WHAT A PITY THAT YOU CANNOT DO THE SAME!





YOU THINK YOU HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY ME? ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME? IF YOU CAN'T PAY THE PRICE, YOU WON'T HAVE THIS PIECE OF MEAT.

THIS IS ALL I HAVE...



THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS!

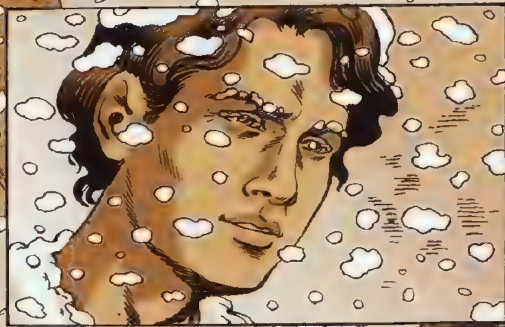


WHAT... WHAT IF I GIVE YOU MY COAT? IT'S GOAT! SINCE IT'S VERY COLD THIS WINTER, IT CAN BE USEFUL TO YOU!

DONE, BUT YOU WILL ALSO GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS.



BUT... I HAVE TO COMPLETE A LONG TRIP BACK.



BUT YOU ARE CRYING, AGESILAUS...

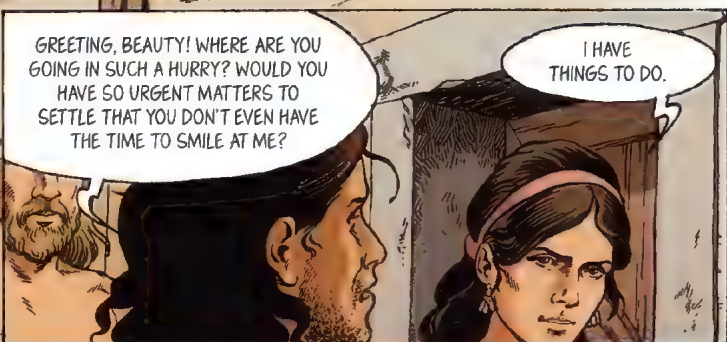
I'M NOT CRYING. IT'S FROM THE COLD.



I DELIBERATELY DIDN'T GIVE YOU ENOUGH COINS. FOR IT IS IN TESTING THE RESISTANCE AND THE REFUSAL TO COMPLAIN THAT WE RECOGNIZE A REAL MAN.




IT'S ENOUGH TO WALK THE STREETS OF SPARTA
TO BE EXPOSED TO TEMPTATIONS.



GREETING, BEAUTY! WHERE ARE YOU
GOING IN SUCH A HURRY? WOULD YOU
HAVE SO URGENT MATTERS TO
SETTLE THAT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE
THE TIME TO SMILE AT ME?

I HAVE
THINGS TO DO.



I ALWAYS THINK THAT WOMEN ARE EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL WHEN THEY RESIST.

FORGIVE MY
ARROGANCE, BUT I
WOULD LIKE TO PROVE
YOU WRONG...



USUALLY, I ALWAYS END UP HAVING THE LAST WORD...

ARKOUDA! GET RID OF
HIM!

AT LEAST TELL ME
YOUR NAME!



BUT WE CAN'T ALWAYS WIN.




OW!

COME ON! STILL TRYING
TO CAUSE TROUBLE?

COME, ARKOUDA, WE HAVE NO
REASON TO BE HERE WITH
THESE PEOPLE...

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR
BALLS, BIG GUY. YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT FOR
A LITTLE WHILE!



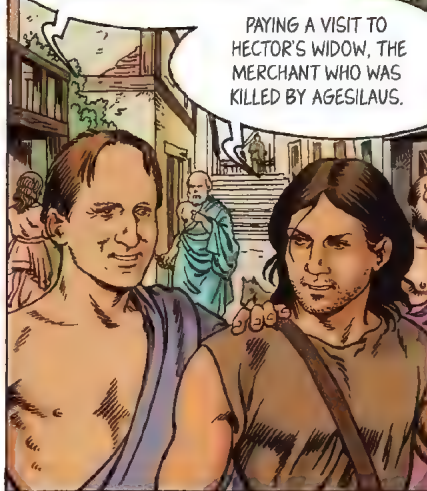
HE WAS
ASKING FOR IT!

IF YOU WANT MY
OPINION, I BELIEVE THERE'S
LESS RISK BY ATTACKING THE
KIND GIRLS OF EROS... THIS
ONE IS A BIG FISH.



AREN'T YOU THE
ONE WHO ALWAYS TELLS
ME TO BITE MORE THAN I
CAN CHEW WHEN IT COMES
TO SEX?

IN YOUR CASE, I'M PRETTY
SURE IT WILL HELP! BUT TELL
ME THIS: WHERE WERE YOU
GOING BEFORE YOU FELL
UNDER GORGON'S SPELL?



PAYING A VISIT TO
HECTOR'S WIDOW, THE
MERCHANT WHO WAS
KILLED BY AGESILAUS.

VERY WELL.
I'LL COME WITH YOU!



I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T
WANT TO HEAR ABOUT MY
NEW CONTRACT!

FIRST, LET'S SAY THAT I'VE
CHANGED MY MIND. SECOND,
I'M BORED, AND FINALLY, MY
FRIEND ALWAYS NEEDS ME...



YEAH... I'M WARNING
YOU, IF YOU TRY ANY-
THING FUNNY, I'LL SEND
YOU BACK WHERE YOU
CAME FROM!

AND THAT'S WHY NESTOR IS MY
BEST FRIEND.



I KNOW! YOU PROVED
THAT YOU WERE GENER-
OUS WITH PUNCHES OVER
THE PAST FEW DAYS.

TAKE ANOTHER ONE... A SLAVE FROM
LEVANT MAKES THEM FROM HONEY
SCENTED WITH FLOWERS FROM HIS
COUNTRY.



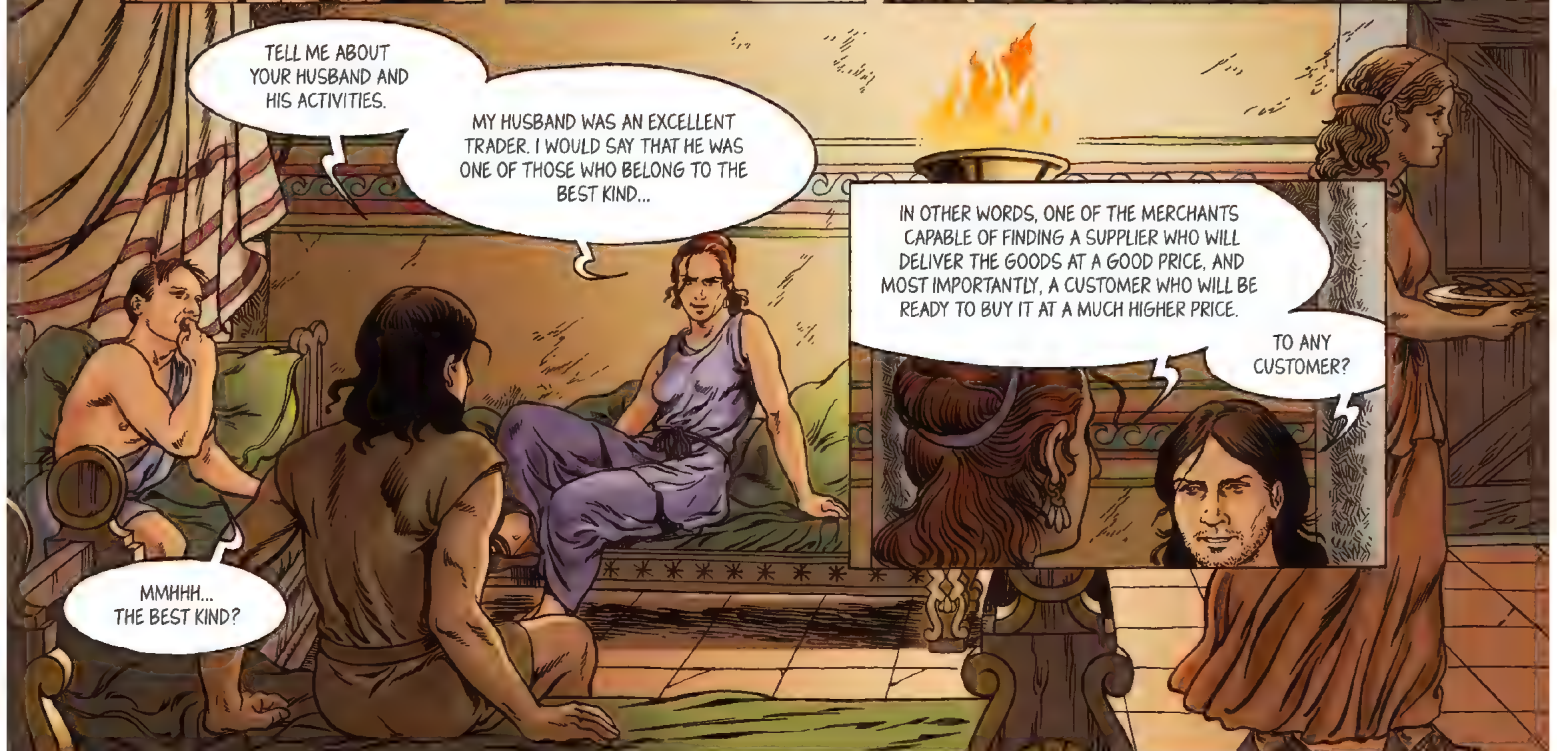
TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR HUSBAND AND
HIS ACTIVITIES.

MY HUSBAND WAS AN EXCELLENT
TRADER. I WOULD SAY THAT HE WAS
ONE OF THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE
BEST KIND...

IN OTHER WORDS, ONE OF THE MERCHANTS
CAPABLE OF FINDING A SUPPLIER WHO WILL
DELIVER THE GOODS AT A GOOD PRICE, AND
MOST IMPORTANTLY, A CUSTOMER WHO WILL BE
READY TO BUY IT AT A MUCH HIGHER PRICE.

TO ANY
CUSTOMER?

MMHHH...
THE BEST KIND?



NO DOUBT ABOUT IT: THE LADY'S CAKES ARE BETTER THAN HER LIES.

MY HUSBAND WAS NOT INVOLVED IN POLITICS.

SELLING WEAPONS TO ENEMIES OF SPARTA... IF THIS ISN'T POLITICS, IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE IT.

I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO TELL YOU AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU NEVER COME THROUGH THE DOOR OF MY HOUSE AGAIN.

SLAM!

WELL... AS A BOUNTY HUNTER, I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD, BUT AS AN INVESTIGATOR, YOU HAVE NOT CONVINCED ME!

HER HECTOR DISGUSTS ME! I HATE TRAITORS, THEY ARE THE WORST VERMIN!

SO AGESILAUS DID THE RIGHT THING BY KILLING HIM.

I'M NOT HERE TO JUDGE WHAT IS GOOD OR EVIL. MY JOB IS TO HUNT THE BOUNTIES. THEN, IF I GET PAID, I DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. FOLLOW ME, I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

I NEVER CAME HERE WITH NESTOR.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

WE NEED TO DESCEND BENEATH THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS LACEDAEMON.

LOOK: LEONIDAS, CLEOMENES, AGIS... IT'S TO THESE KINGS THAT WE OWE THE GREATNESS OF SPARTA. THIS MAUSOLEUM WAS ONCE CONSTRUCTED TO HONOR THEM, BUT TODAY, NOBODY DARES COME HERE.

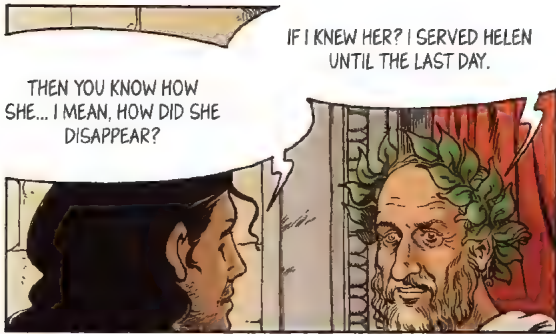
NABIS WON'T COME COMPLETE THIS FAMILY PICTURE!

AND HERE IS HELEN, CLEOMENES' DAUGHTER... DO YOU THINK IT'S ALLOWED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A MARBLE STATUE? SOMETIMES, I WANT TO UNDRRESS BEFORE HER AND CARESS HER WITH ALL MY LIMBS. AS BEFORE, WHEN SHE WAS NEAR ME...

MAYBE WITH A MARBLE COCK...

SHUT UP, DEFILERS! DON'T YOU THINK SHE HAD SUFFERED ENOUGH?

YOU KNEW HER?

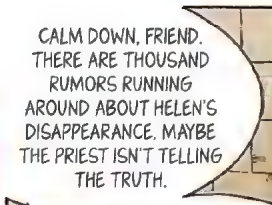


THEN YOU KNOW HOW SHE... I MEAN, HOW DID SHE DISAPPEAR?

IF I KNEW HER? I SERVED HELEN UNTIL THE LAST DAY.



NABIS WANTED HER IN HIS BED AND SHE PREFERRED TO DIE RATHER THAN YIELD TO HIS ADVANCES, AND THAT IS INDEED WHAT HAPPENED.



CALM DOWN, FRIEND. THERE ARE THOUSAND RUMORS RUNNING AROUND ABOUT HELEN'S DISAPPEARANCE. MAYBE THE PRIEST ISN'T TELLING THE TRUTH.

YES, BUT WHAT IF HE'S RIGHT? AND IF DORKIS HEARD THESE RUMORS?

I WAS IN BAD SHAPE YESTERDAY! YOU'LL SEE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO GIVE YOU!

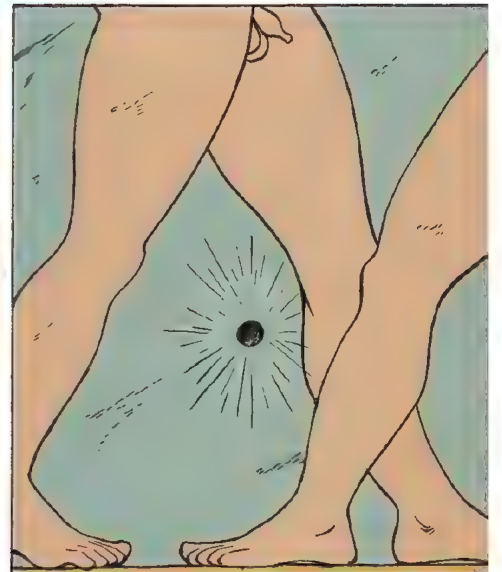


I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT... YOU KNOW, KNOWING HOW TO ADMIT YOUR INFERIORITY IS ALSO A STRENGTH.



ME? INFERIOR? YOU WANT TO HUMOR ME TO DEATH? INFERIORITY IS FOR COWARDS. YOU SHOULD TELL IT TO NABIS, HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!

FOR ONCE, I AGREE WITH YOU... SINCE HE ROSE ON THE THRONE, SPARTA IS NOTHING BUT A SHADOW OF ITS FORMER SELF. WHAT A SHAME TO HAVE SUCH A COWARD FOR A LEADER.



GOOD THING THAT AGESILAVS IS HERE TO RIDICULE HIM.



YES, FINALLY A MAN WHO HAS A NICE PAIR UNDER THE TUNIC!

HAHAHA!

THIS IS TOO MUCH, MY KING. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN BEAR THESE CHATTERS!

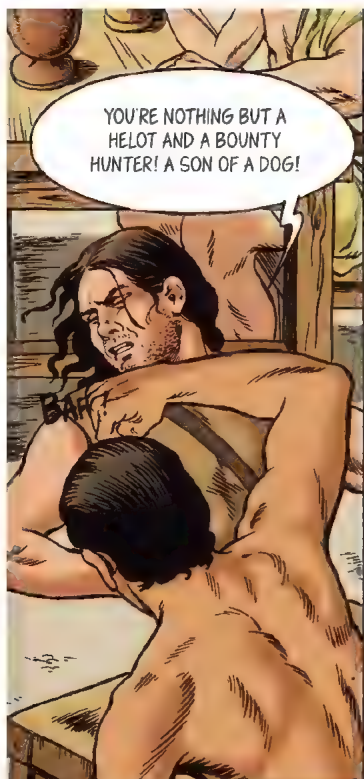


ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S VERY INTERESTING. OTHERWISE, HOW WOULD I KNOW WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF ME? AND TAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS, LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE... WAIT... SHUT UP!

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I HEARD ON THE MARKET... THEY'RE SAYING THAT CLEOMENES' GRANDSON LIVES IN THE CITY.



KING CLEOMENES? THE GREAT CLEOMENES?



YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A
HELOT AND A BOUNTY
HUNTER! A SON OF A DOG!



SON OF A DOG? TAKE BACK
WHAT YOU JUST SAID!



MY FATHER WAS AN
HONORABLE MAN, RESPECTED
BY ALL! DO YOU HEAR ME?

A HELOT WHO DARES
TO CONFRONT A REAL SPARTAN?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT
ONLY A SPARTAN CAN DEFEAT
ANOTHER SPARTAN?



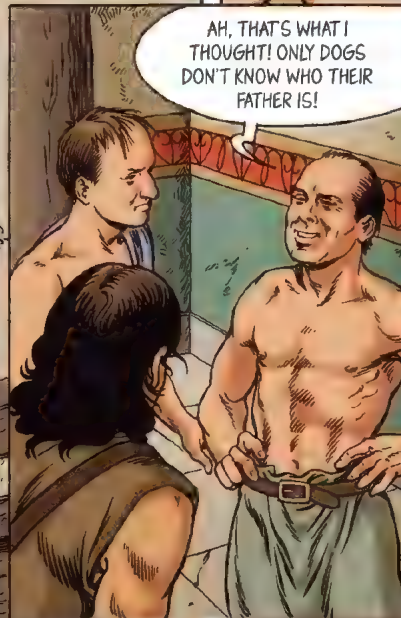
COME ON, STOP!

IF YOU KNOW THE NAME
OF THIS RESPECTABLE
MAN, LET ME KNOW.
GO AHEAD!



OF COURSE I KNOW HIM AND
I DEFEND HIS HONOR, ESPECIALLY SINCE
HE'S NO LONGER HERE TO DO IT.

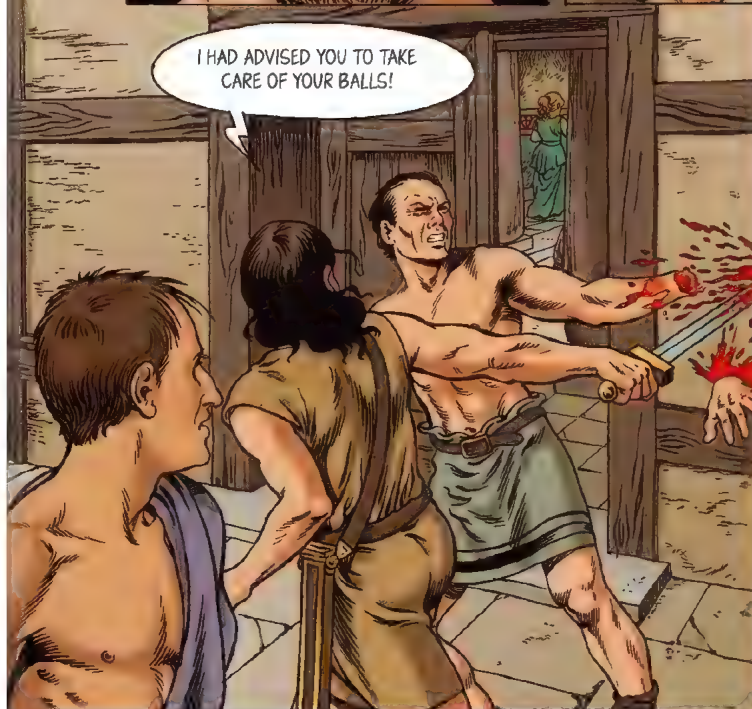
I... I CAN'T...



AH, THAT'S WHAT I
THOUGHT! ONLY DOGS
DON'T KNOW WHO THEIR
FATHER IS!



COME! WE HAVE NOTHING
MORE TO DO HERE!



I HAD ADVISED YOU TO TAKE
CARE OF YOUR BALLS!



CONSIDER YOURSELF
HAPPY THAT I ONLY TOOK
YOUR HAND.

AAAAH!



WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF A YOUNG BOY, CLEOMENES' GRANDSON?



CLEOMENES' CHILDREN ARE DEAD AND THEY HAD NO CHILDREN. WE WOULD HAVE KNOWN!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, FOR YOUR SAKE...



IS THAT A THREAT?

LET'S CALL IT A REMINDER. DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU OWE TO OUR KING... HE MADE YOU RICH. HE HAD THE KINDNESS TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO YOUR LITTLE BUSINESS WITH EGYPT, OR AM I WRONG?



I'M TELLING YOU THAT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...

THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! GOOD DAY!



IT'S HARD TO MAKE A CHOICE. THEY ARE MAGNIFICENT!

AND FOR YOU, ACHILLES, I'M PREPARED TO MAKE A FRIENDLY PRICE!



CAN'T IT WAIT?

MASTER... NEWS FROM SPARTA. A MESSAGE FROM OUR FRIEND, THE MAN IN THE MASK...



INCREDIBLE! NABIS IS STALKING THE GRANDSON OF HIS WORST ENEMY. THESE SPARTANS HAVE BECOME MORE STUPID THAN COCKS TEARING EACH OTHER TO PIECES IN THE BACKYARD!



WHEN HE MAKES THAT UGLY FACE, NESTOR IS NOT AN EASY MAN TO CONVINCE.

YOU ARE CRAZY! YESTERDAY YOU ALMOST GOT US THROWN IN JAIL FOR A GIRL WHO'S NOT EVEN WORTH IT. AND IT'S STILL NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME TO DO.

LET'S NOT EXAGGERATE! THERE'S NO DANGER, NOT EVEN FOR YOU...

I'M ASKING YOU AS A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP!

TO USE MY MASTER AS BAIT TO HONOR YOUR CONTRACT? I'M TELLING YOU, DIODORUS, YOU'RE CRAZY!

YOUR MASTER? I THOUGHT YOU HAD BOUGHT YOUR FREEDOM AND STOPPED BEING A HELOT!

OF COURSE! BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP ME FROM REMAINING LOYAL TO THEOPHANIS.

THIS AGESILAUS IS ELUSIVE. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE'S HIDING. SO IT'S BETTER TO BRING HIM TO US!

I DON'T CARE! THIS TIME, YOU WON'T USE ME TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!

I HAVE PAID MY DEBT... NOW I HAVE AN HONEST JOB AND I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO SAY TO YOU.

THINK ABOUT IT... THERE IS A NICE REWARD FOR THIS...

EVEN IF I HAD HEARD ABOUT YOUR HEIR, I WOULDN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING! I LOVE MY PEACE. WITH THEM, AT LEAST, I HAD NO QUARREL.

FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE IS ON THE VERGE OF SELLING THEM TO THE ACHAEANS!

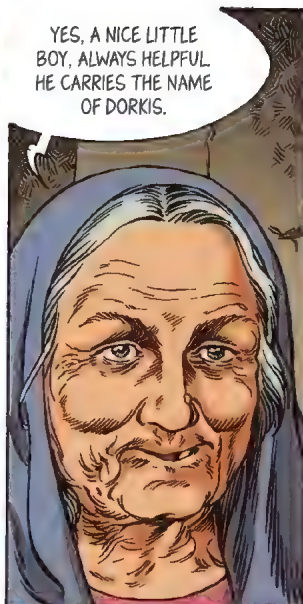
GOOD HORSES? TO THE ACHAEANS? WHAT A SHAME... SUCH A MAN DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE A SPARTAN!

YES, A REAL SHAME... I WONDER WHO CAN PUT AN END TO IT!

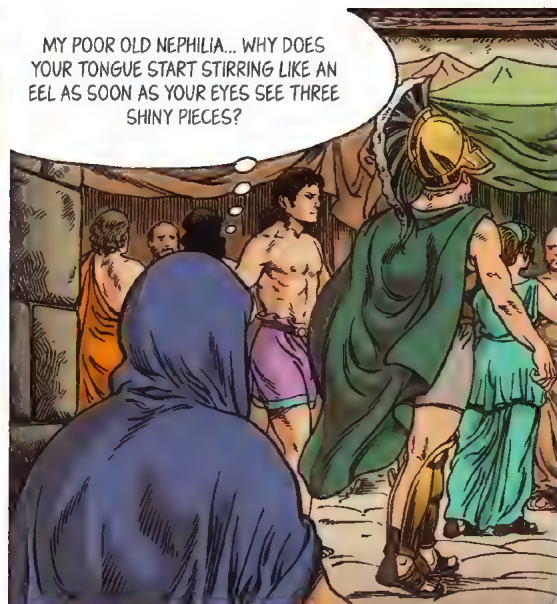


THANK YOU! ZEUS
LACEDAEEMON WILL REPAY
YOU A THOUSAND FOLD!

SO YOU TOLD ME
THAT HE WAS IN THE
POTTERS' DISTRICT.



YES, A NICE LITTLE
BOY, ALWAYS HELPFUL.
HE CARRIES THE NAME
OF DORKIS.



MY POOR OLD NEPHILIA... WHY DOES
YOUR TONGUE START STIRRING LIKE AN
EEL AS SOON AS YOUR EYES SEE THREE
SHINY PIECES?



I THOUGHT ABOUT IT!
I AGREE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE
TO SHARE THE LOOT...

THANK YOU, OLD BROTHER!
I EXPECTED NOTHING LESS
OF YOU.



YOU CAN SPREAD THE
WORD OF MY MASTER'S
"BETRAYAL"...

IT'S ALREADY
DONE!



I WAS RIGHT TO ANTICIPATE MY
FRIEND'S DECISION.

BUT HOW...
HOW DID YOU KNOW I
WOULD ACCEPT?

BECAUSE YOU ARE MY
FRIEND AND YOU CAN'T
REFUSE ME!



NOT ONLY ARE YOU CRAZY, YOU
ARE ALSO THE MOST PRETENTIOUS
HELOT OF THIS CITY!

I KNOW, I HAVE ALL
THE QUALITIES!

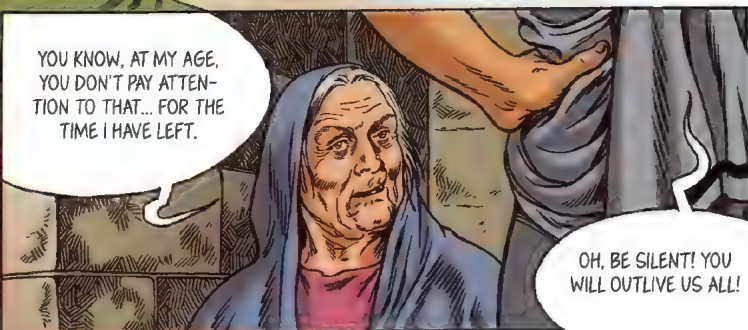


BUT IF SOMETHING GOES
WRONG, LET ME WARN YOU THAT
IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!



GOOD DAY, NEPHELIA.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY,
ISN'T IT?

?



YOU KNOW, AT MY AGE,
YOU DON'T PAY ATTEN-
TION TO THAT... FOR THE
TIME I HAVE LEFT.

OH, BE SILENT! YOU
WILL OUTLIVE US ALL!



HAVE YOU ALREADY
FINISHED YOUR DAY?



IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD STOP
CHATTERING AND GO BACK HOME
RIGHT AWAY. THERE ARE MANY
PEOPLE OF THE PALACE WANDER-
ING IN THE CITY.

PEOPLE OF THE
PALACE? WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO TELL ME?



THAT YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS
TO DO THAN STAY HERE! YOU
HAVE BEEN WARNED!

DORKIS...

I DON'T TAKE ENOUGH TIME TO
WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.



IT'S A PITY BECAUSE LANDSCAPES ARE SPLENDID AND SOMETIMES THERE ARE INTERESTING ENCOUNTERS.



NESTOR, FOR PITY'S SAKE! IT SEEMS TO ME WE'RE CRAWLING LIKE A SNAIL ALONG THE WALL ON A RAINY DAY. DO SOMETHING, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO WASTE MY DAY!

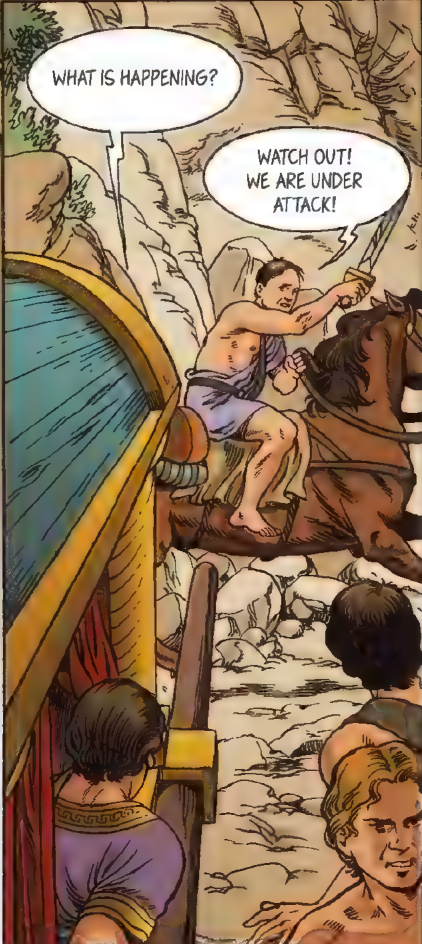
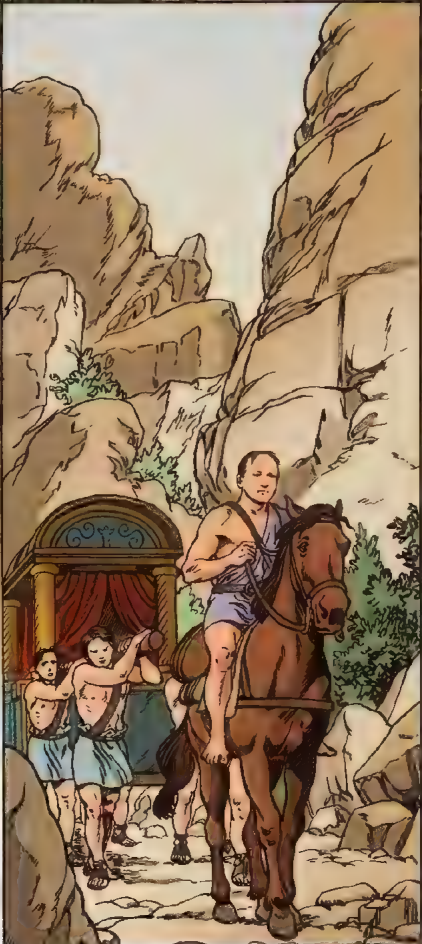


YES, MASTER, WE WILL MOVE FASTER...

I WAS SURE THIS WOULDN'T WORK!



COME ON, ACCELERATE THE PACE!



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

WATCH OUT! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!



BY HEPHAESTUS' WHORE, IS HE COMING OR NOT?

TRADE WITH THE ACHAEANS? ME?!

SO, THEOPHANIS, YOU WANT TO TRADE WITH THE ACHAEANS?

BEWARE!

I USUALLY DO... TRAITORS OFTEN HAVE A SHORT MEMORY...

AH! AH! AH!

LOOK HOW STRONG HE IS, OUR PROUD SPARTAN!

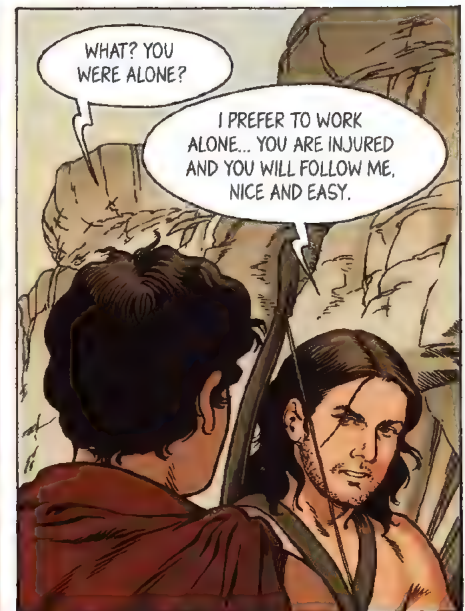
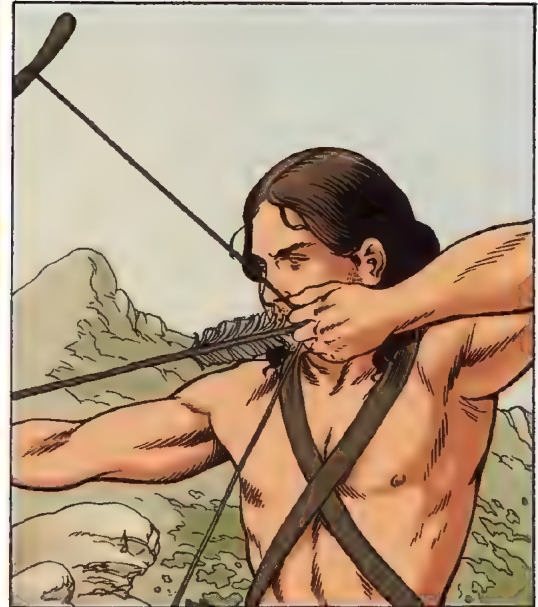
WE COULD CONTINUE TO AMUSE OURSELVES WITH THIS FOR A WHILE. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO. WE NEED TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR YOUR BETRAYAL.

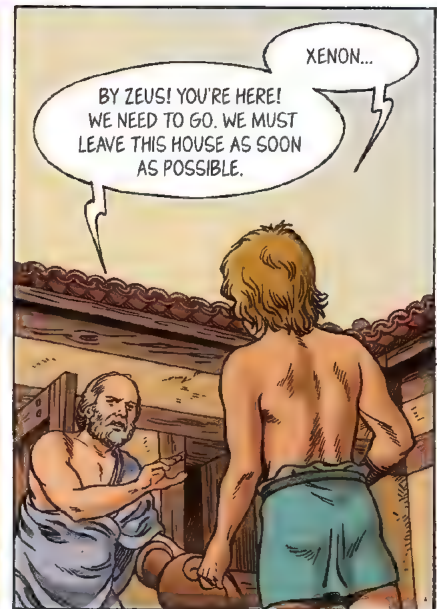
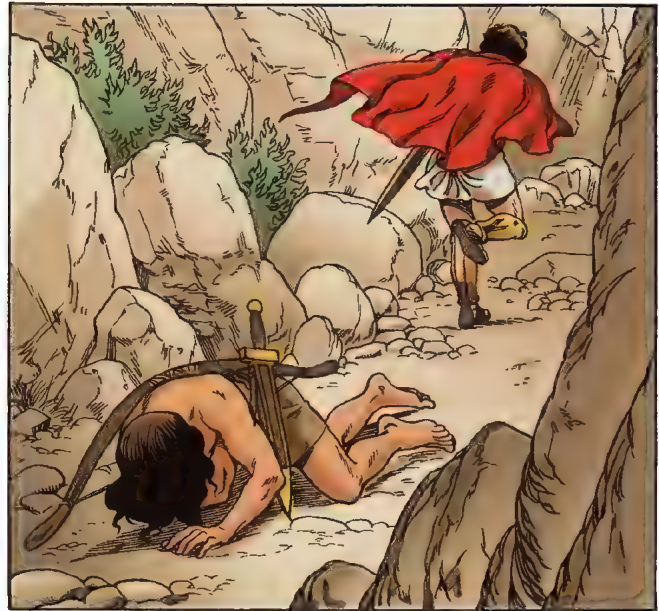
BUT... THIS IS A MISTAKE! I'VE NEVER BETRAYED SPARTA...

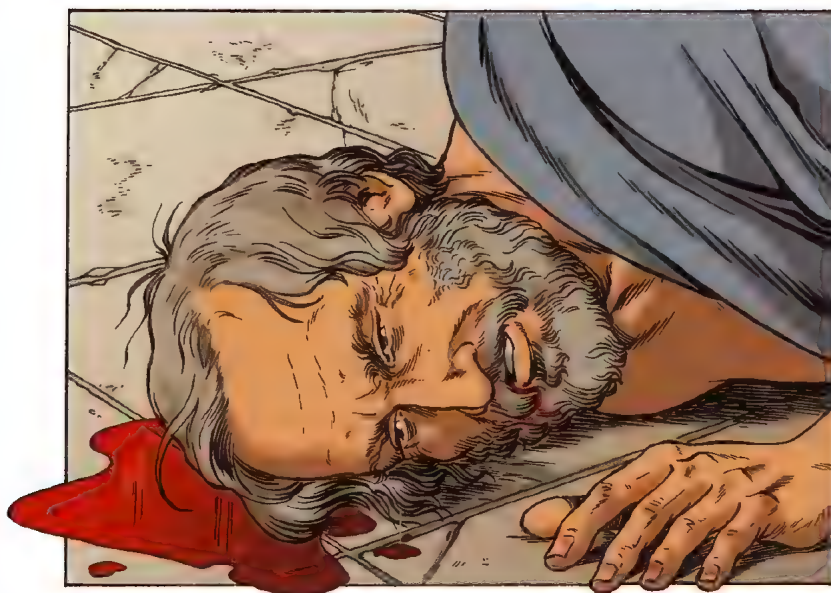
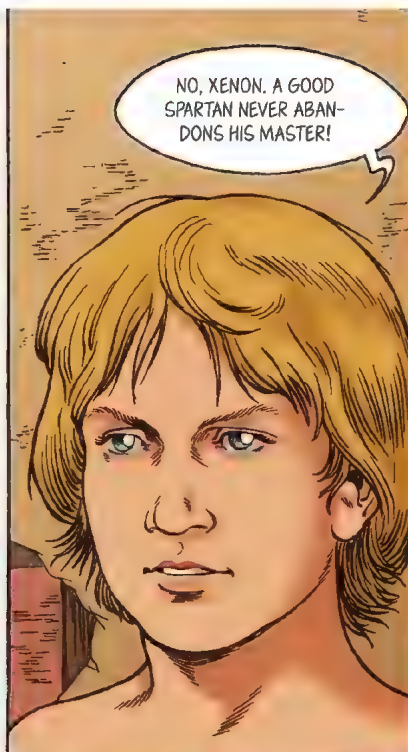
THE ART OF A GOOD BOUNTY HUNTER IS TO INTERVENE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

AARRRGHHH!

IT'S A TRAP! QUICKLY, RETREAT!









FATHER!
MOTHER!



WHERE
ARE YOU?

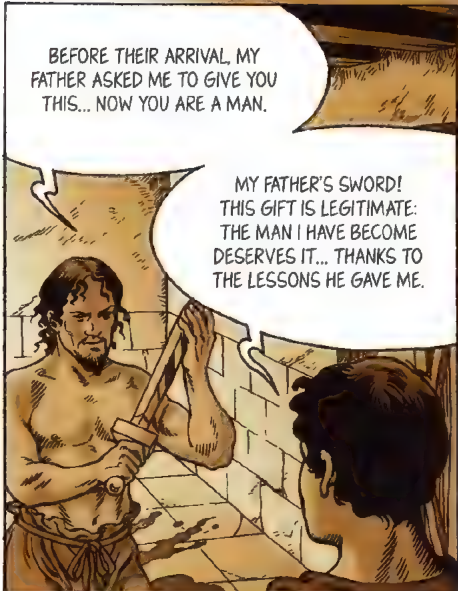


AGESILAUS... DON'T GO IN.
NABIS' MEN, THEY CAME AND
THEY...

I WANT TO SEE!
WITH MY OWN EYES!

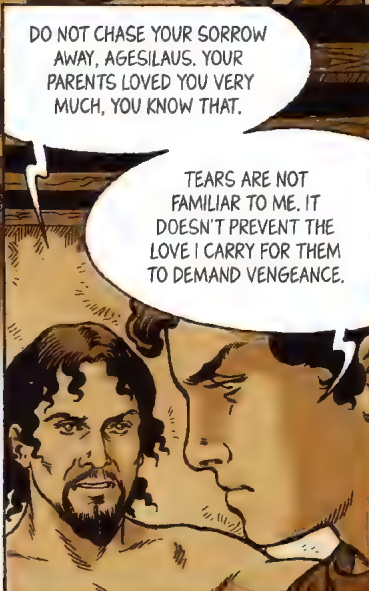


THOSE DOGS DON'T
RESPECT ANYTHING.
THEY EVEN PISSED ON
THEIR WOUNDS.



BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL, MY
FATHER ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU
THIS... NOW YOU ARE A MAN.

MY FATHER'S SWORD!
THIS GIFT IS LEGITIMATE:
THE MAN I HAVE BECOME
DESERVES IT... THANKS TO
THE LESSONS HE GAVE ME.

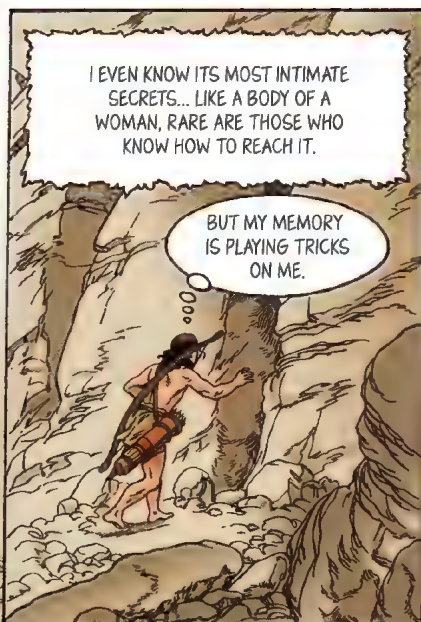
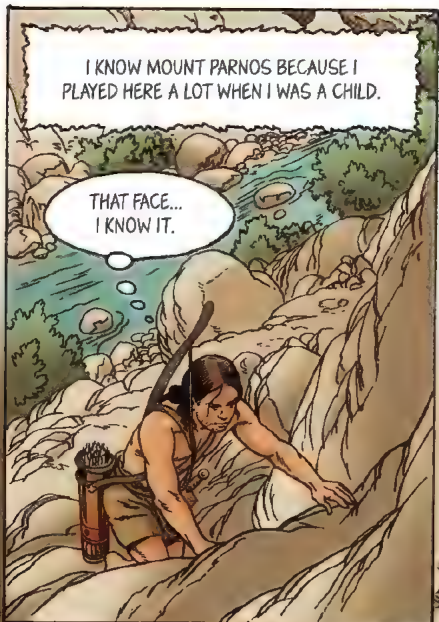


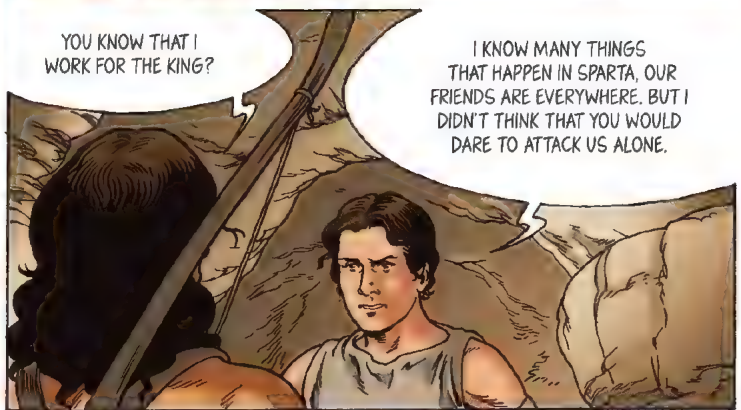
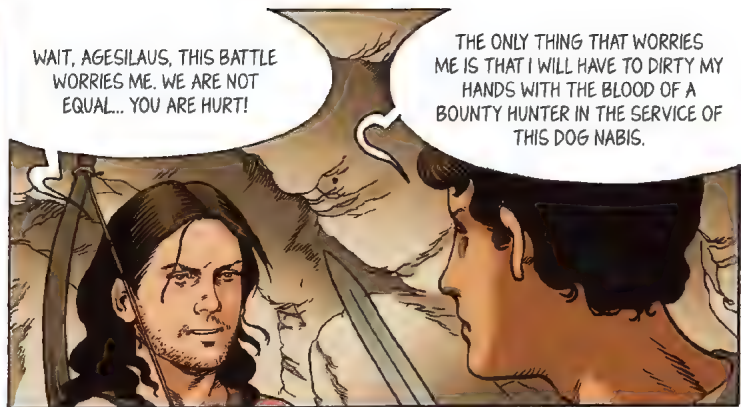
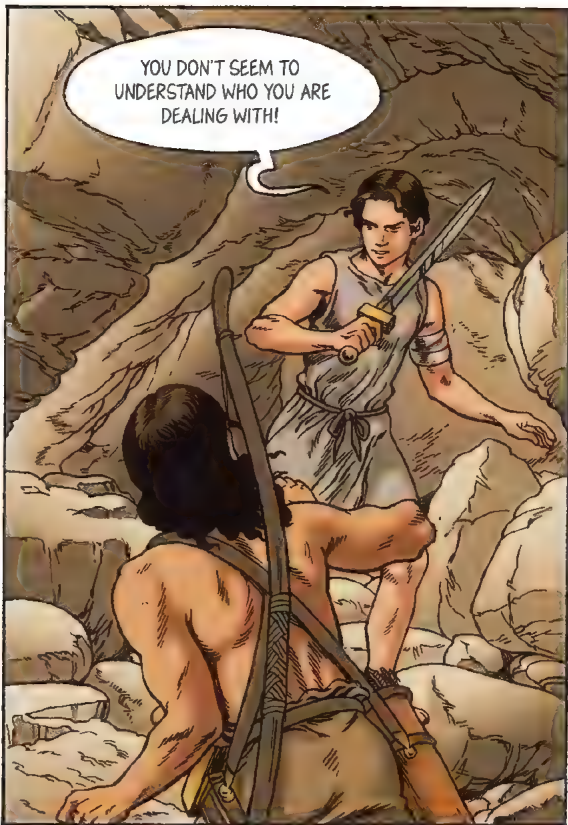
DO NOT CHASE YOUR SORROW
AWAY, AGESILAUS. YOUR
PARENTS LOVED YOU VERY
MUCH, YOU KNOW THAT.

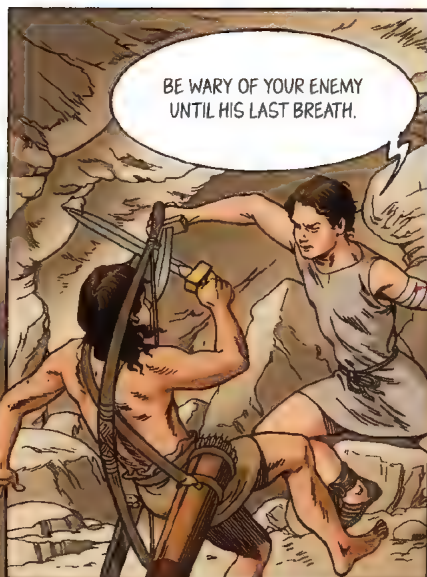
TEARS ARE NOT
FAMILIAR TO ME. IT
DOESN'T PREVENT THE
LOVE I CARRY FOR THEM
TO DEMAND VENGEANCE.



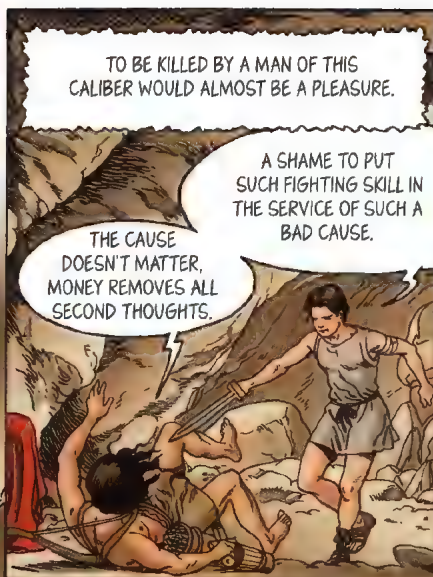
IT'S STRANGE... MY HEART IS SAD
AND RELIEVED AT THE SAME TIME:
AN ORPHAN, BUT FREE TO ACT...
AND, FROM NOW ON, THE ONLY
ONE CARRYING THE SECRET OF
OUR FAMILY.







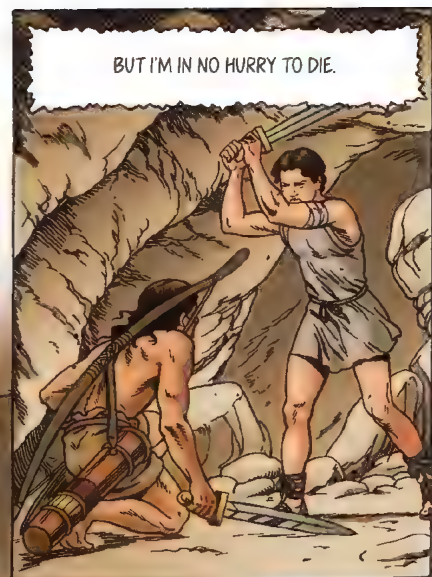
BE WARY OF YOUR ENEMY
UNTIL HIS LAST BREATH.



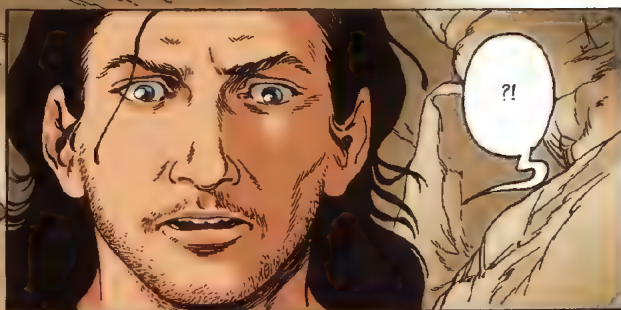
TO BE KILLED BY A MAN OF THIS
CALIBER WOULD ALMOST BE A PLEASURE.

THE CAUSE
DOESN'T MATTER,
MONEY REMOVES ALL
SECOND THOUGHTS.

A SHAME TO PUT
SUCH FIGHTING SKILL IN
THE SERVICE OF SUCH A
BAD CAUSE.



BUT I'M IN NO HURRY TO DIE.



?!

IN FRONT OF SUCH A VISION, WORDS FAIL ME.

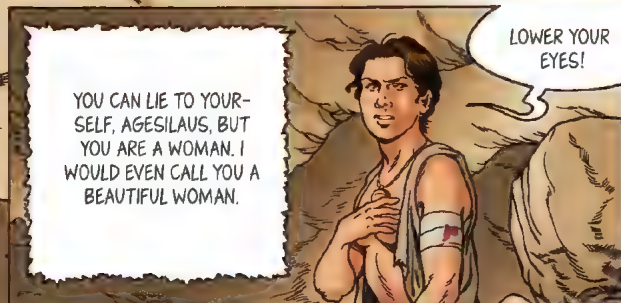


BY THE GODS...
HOW IS THIS
POSSIBLE?



AGESILAUS... YOU ARE A
WOMAN! HOW WERE YOU
ABLE TO CONCEAL SUCH
A SECRET? YOU WHO
SUPPORT THE VIRTUES
OF OUR ANCESTORS!

I'M NOT A WOMAN. I
AM A SPARTAN.

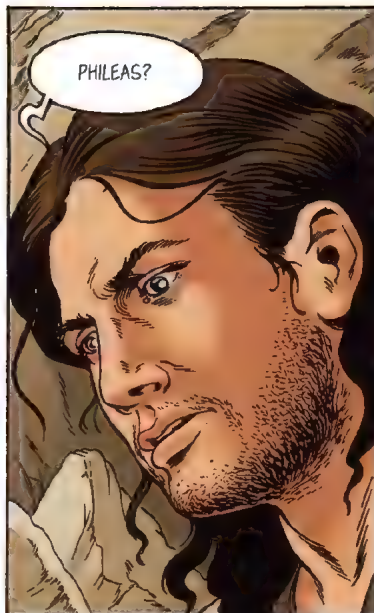


LOWER YOUR
EYES!

YOU CAN LIE TO YOUR-
SELF, AGESILAUS, BUT
YOU ARE A WOMAN. I
WOULD EVEN CALL YOU A
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.



AND KNOW WHAT I
WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT
FOR THE HONOR LOST BY MY
CITY... IN MEMORY OF MY
FATHER, PHILEAS.

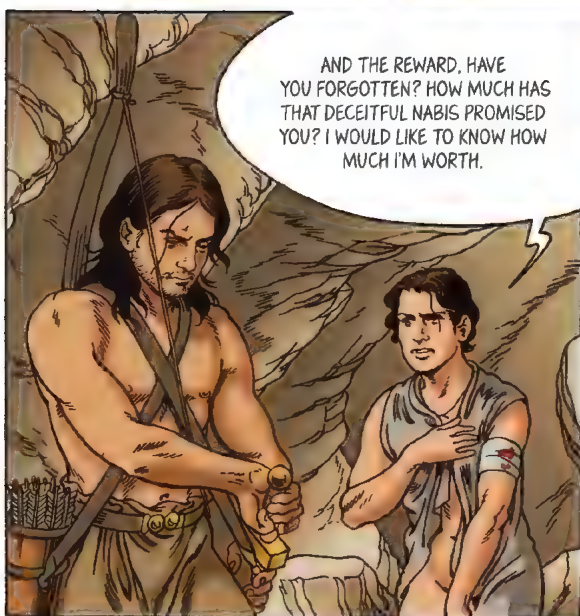


PHILEAS?



THEN... THIS FACE!

SO... YOU
WON'T KILL ME?



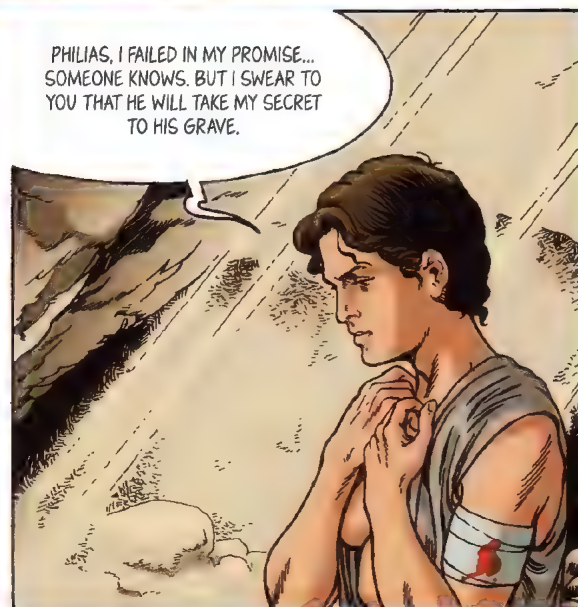
AND THE REWARD. HAVE
YOU FORGOTTEN? HOW MUCH HAS
THAT DECEITFUL NABIS PROMISED
YOU? I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW
MUCH I'M WORTH.



YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE BY
LEAVING ME ALIVE, DIODORUS!
I WILL KILL YOU!



I SWEAR THIS OATH!



PHILEAS, I FAILED IN MY PROMISE...
SOMEONE KNOWS. BUT I SWEAR TO
YOU THAT HE WILL TAKE MY SECRET
TO HIS GRAVE.

I RETURNED TO THE CITY, WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE I WAS GOING. THE FACE OF AGESILAUS, ESPECIALLY HER SMALL BREASTS, HAUNTED MY THOUGHTS.

I WAS NOT EVEN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAD JUST DONE: I LEFT MY ENEMY ALIVE.

PROBABLY THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE.

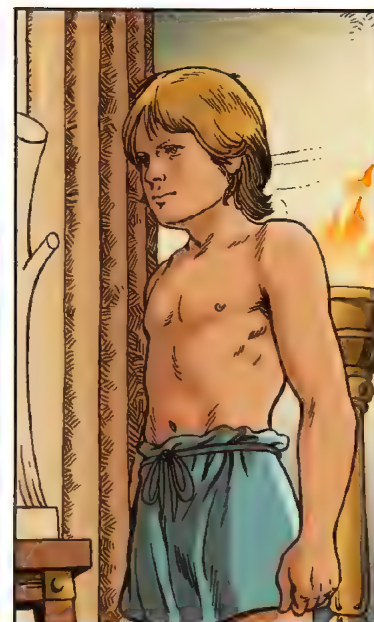
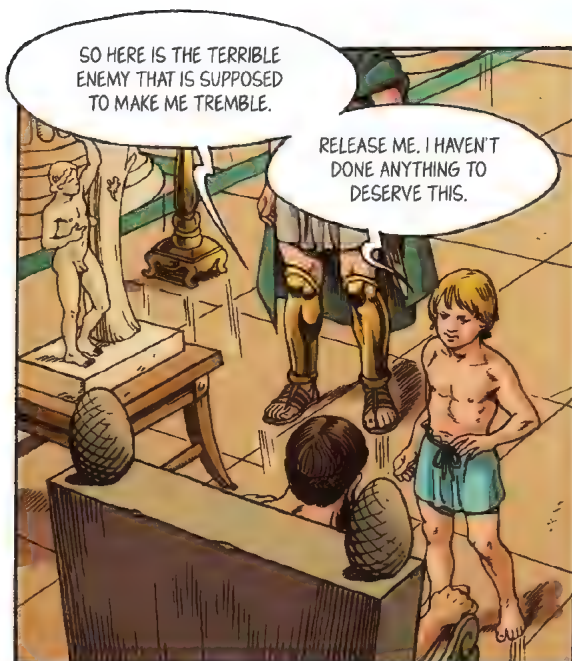
DIODORUS! I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU!

NOW YOU KNOW EVERYTHING... DORKIS WAS BRAVE LIKE A LION, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF HIM. BUT AN OLD MAN AND A CHILD COULD DO NOTHING AGAINST NABIS' MINIONS.

DON'T TALK NONSENSE! BUT WE MUST ACT QUICKLY. TO HAVE A CHANCE OF GETTING CLOSE TO DORKIS, YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO NABIS. AND ABOVE ALL, YOU MUST GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS: AGESILAUS.

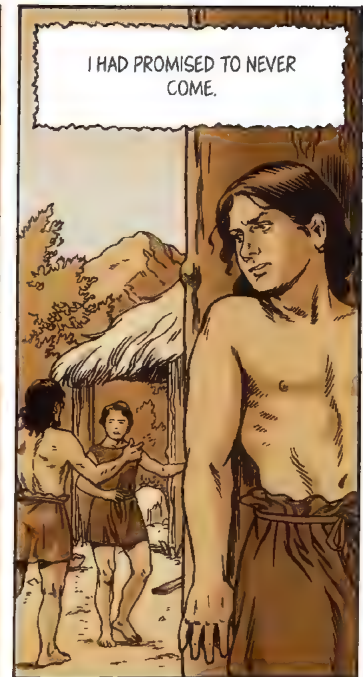
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

AGESILAUS... YES...

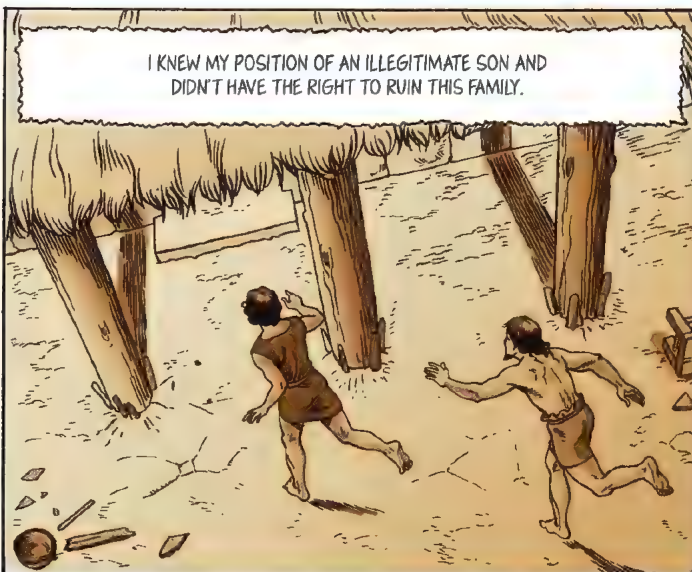




THIS FACE... MY MEMORY
RETURNS TO ME.



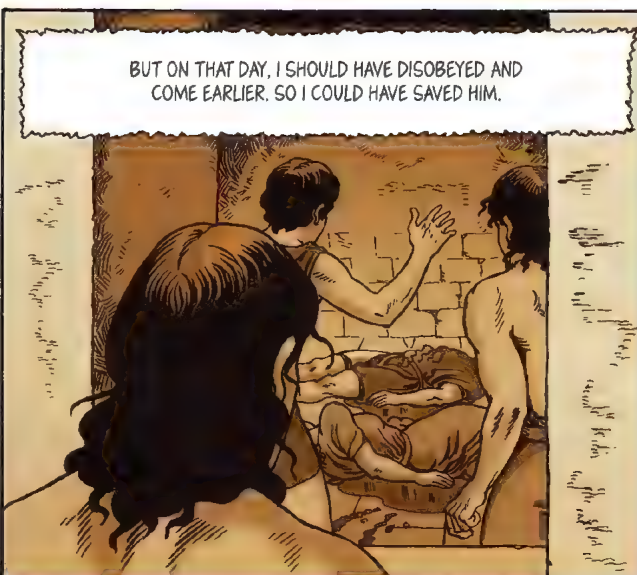
I HAD PROMISED TO NEVER
COME.



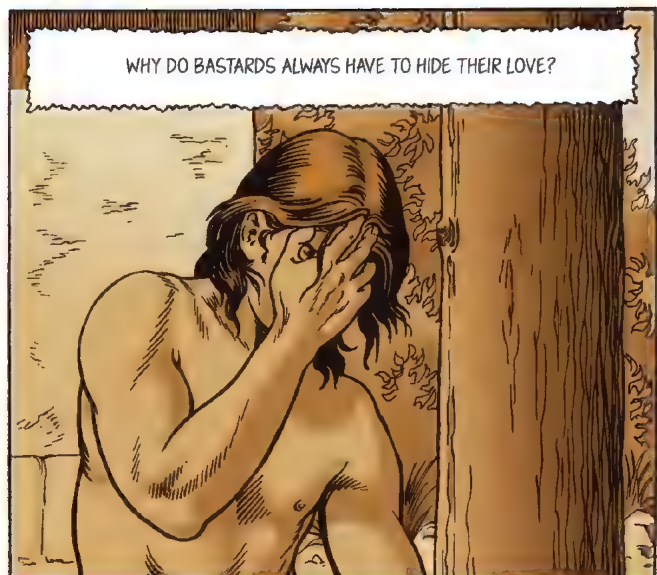
I KNEW MY POSITION OF AN ILLEGITIMATE SON AND
DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUIN THIS FAMILY.



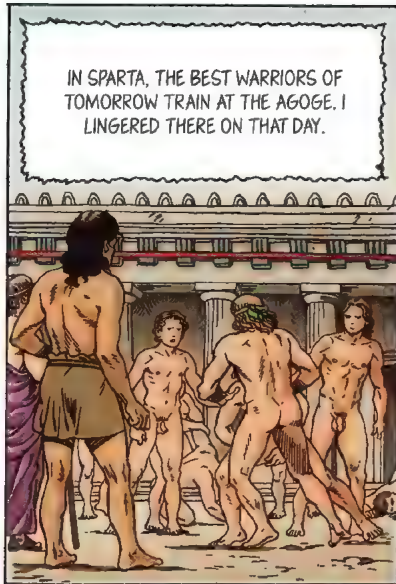
ESPECIALLY SINCE MY FATHER WAS ALWAYS GOOD AND
GENEROUS TOWARDS ME, EVEN IF I DIDN'T SEE HIM THAT MUCH.



BUT ON THAT DAY, I SHOULD HAVE DISOBEYED AND
COME EARLIER. SO I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.



WHY DO BASTARDS ALWAYS HAVE TO HIDE THEIR LOVE?



IN SPARTA, THE BEST WARRIORS OF TOMORROW TRAIN AT THE AGOGE. I LINGERED THERE ON THAT DAY.



I LOST A FATHER I LOVED AND WON A SISTER WHO HATES ME, A SISTER WHOSE IMAGE HAUNTS ME SINCE I TORE HER TUNIC.



I LOST A WOMAN I LOVED, AND IF I WANT TO SEE HER SON AGAIN, I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO KILL MY SISTER.



MY INFORMANT IS CERTAIN... A MAN WEARING A COMEDY MASK HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY ACHILLES THE ACHAEAN. AND HE CAME FROM SPARTA.

AESCHYLUS COULD HAVE SAID THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE STEP BETWEEN COMEDY AND TRAGEDY.



SO OUR ENEMIES KNOW MORE THAN THEY SHOULD... WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ADAPT OUR PLANS.



MEANWHILE, IN PATRAS.

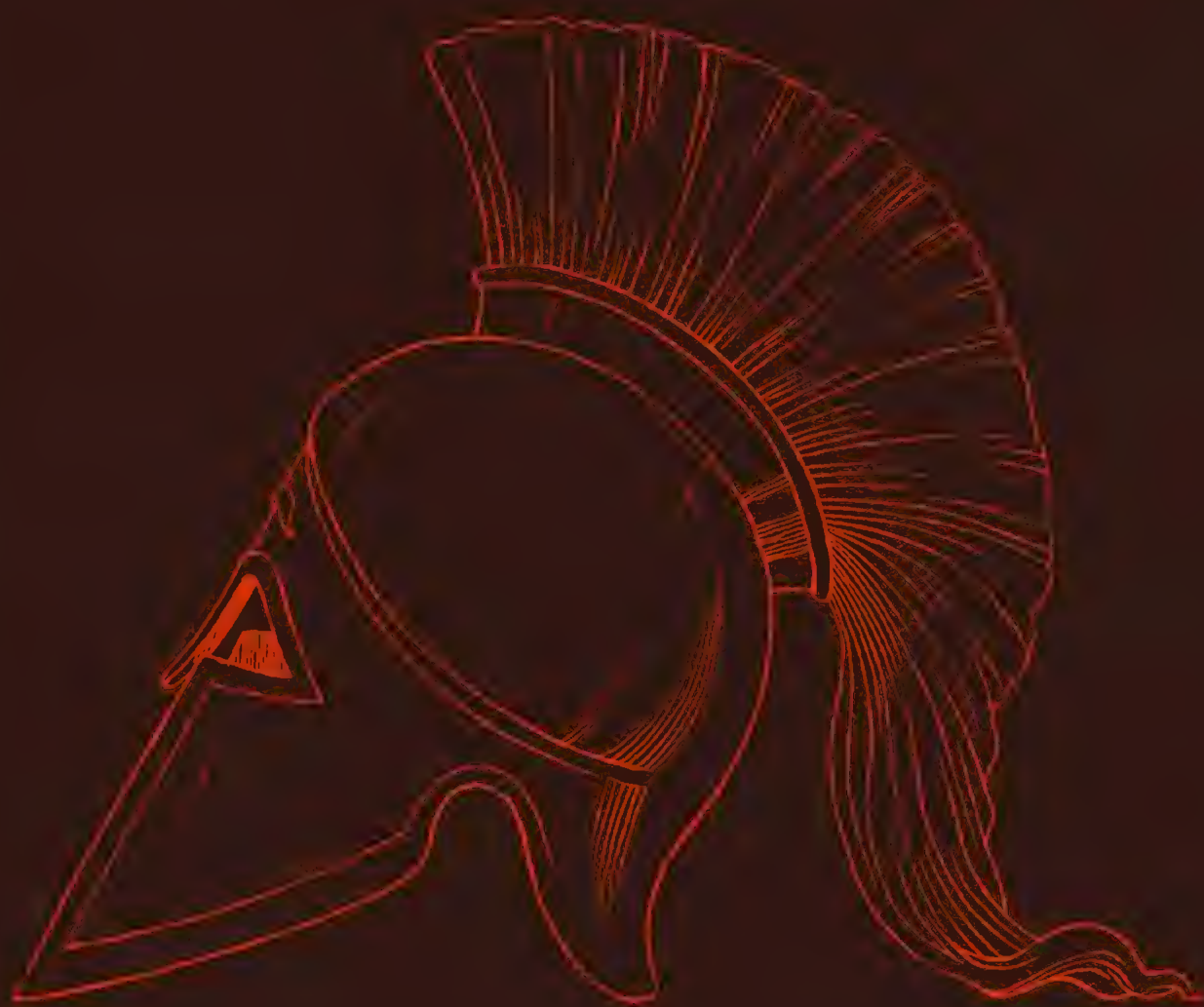
ACHILLES, WE ARE READY!

LOOK AT THEM. THEY CAME FROM PATRAS, TRITAEA, PHARAE, AIGIO, AND OTHER CITIES FROM ALL OVER ACHAEA. THIS ARMY OF THE ACHAEAN LEAGUE WILL ENTER THE HISTORY BOOKS AS THE ONE THAT WIPED SPARTA COMPLETELY OFF THE MAP.



END OF 1ST PART.







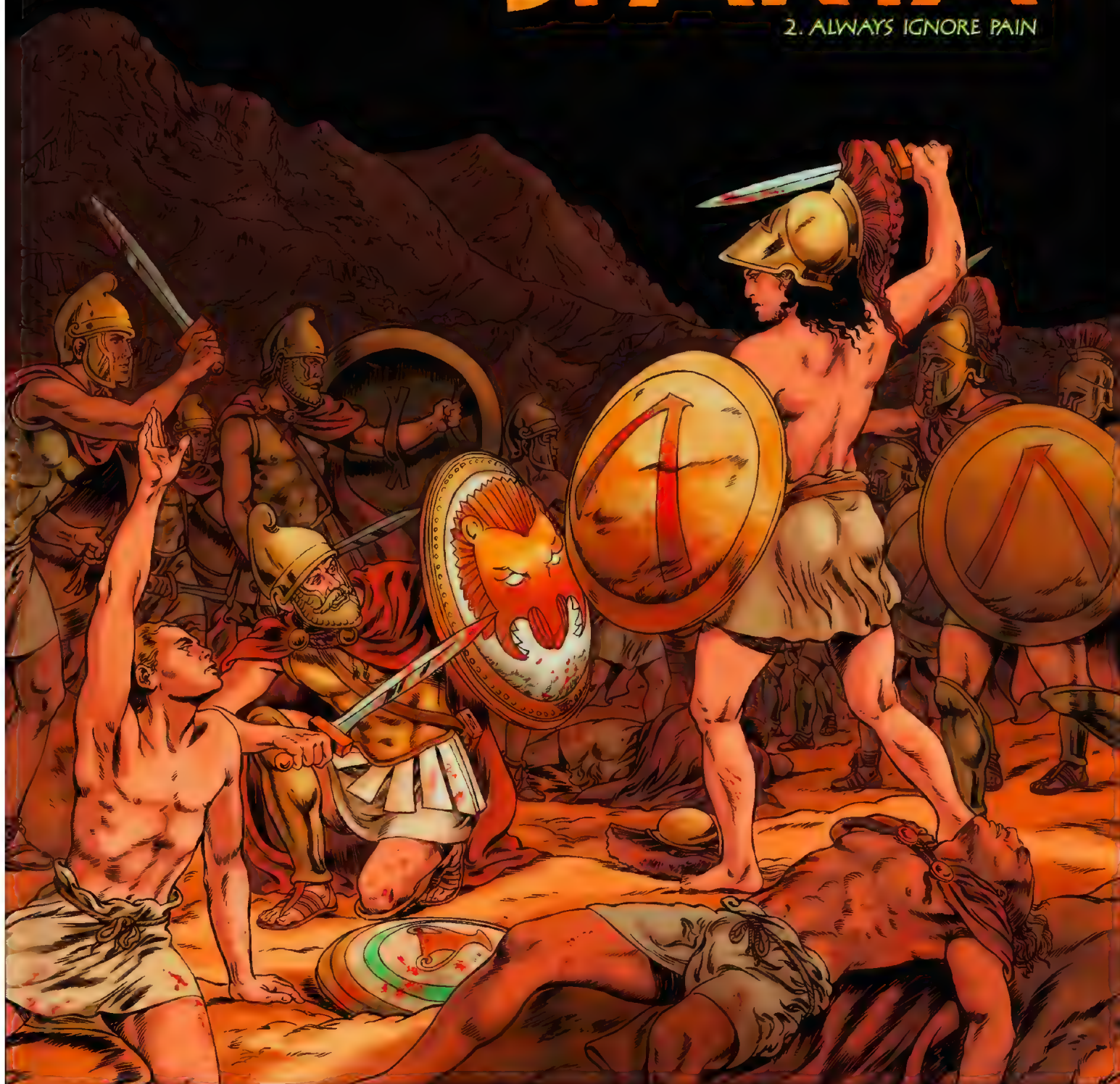
SPARTA

SIMON

WEBER

SPARTA

2. ALWAYS IGNORE PAIN







SPARTA

2. ALWAYS IGNORE PAIN



STORY - PATRICK WEBER

ART & COLOR - CRISTOPHE SIMON

OCR - LETO

CLEANING & COVERS - SABKO

TRANSLATION & TYPESETTING - SOSICH



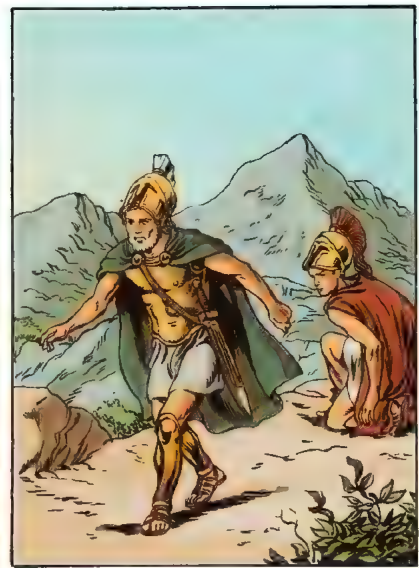


FLIES THAT WE ARE
GOING TO CRUSH.



WHY AREN'T THE ACHAEANS
ATTACKING?

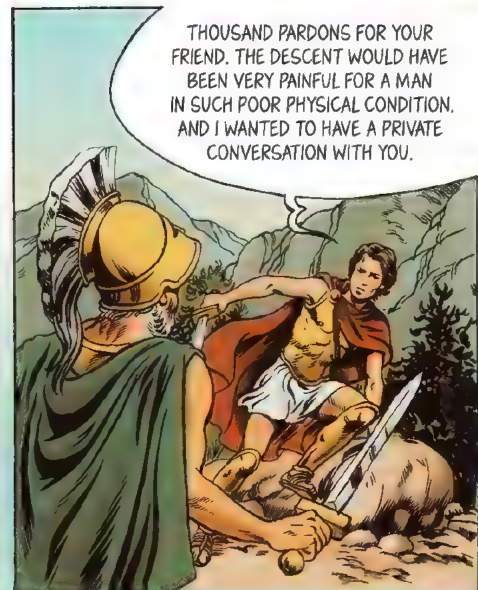
THEY ARE WAITING FOR NABIS
TO RESPOND THEIR PROVOCATION IN
ORDER TO LEAD A CLASSIC BATTLE ON
THE BATTLEFIELD. BUT OUR KING HAS
ANOTHER PLAN.



AAAAHHH!



PATROCLUS! WHAT...



THOUSAND PARDONS FOR YOUR
FRIEND. THE DESCENT WOULD HAVE
BEEN VERY PAINFUL FOR A MAN
IN SUCH POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION.
AND I WANTED TO HAVE A PRIVATE
CONVERSATION WITH YOU.



THAT THIS,
YOU WORM!

YOU'RE NOT
HURTING ME!

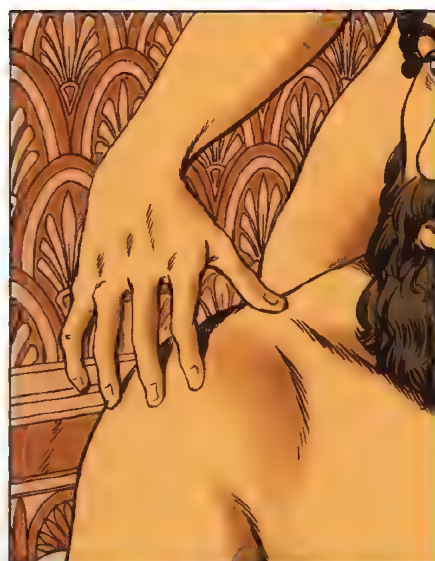
LOOK WHO'S COMING!



STOP!



DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, YOU POOR FOOL?! I AM GENERAL ALEXANDROS! I MUST SPEAK WITH NABIS! IMMEDIATELY!



I THOUGHT YOU MISSED ME, BUT IF I JUDGE BY VIGOR OF YOUR SPEAR, IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S NOT THE CASE.

DON'T BE ANGRY, APIA. SINCE YOU LEFT ON A JOURNEY, I'VE HAD SOME PROBLEMS...

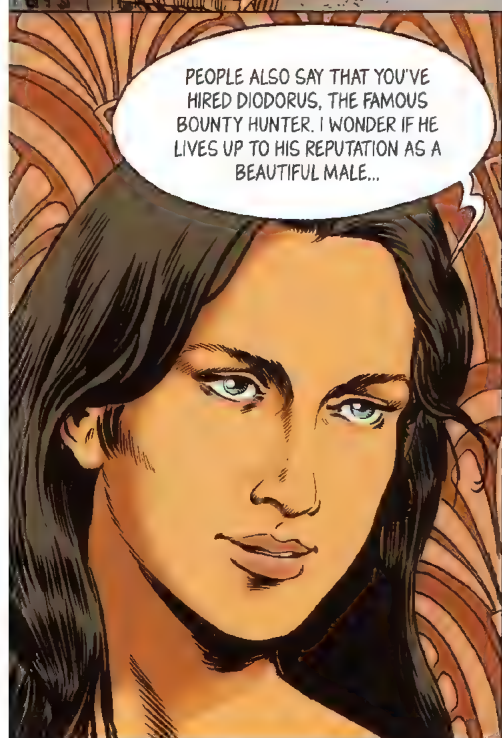
TOO BAD... YOU KNOW I CAN MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR IDEAS BETTER THAN ANYONE.

IT'S TRUE THAT YOU ARE AN EXPERT IN THAT FIELD...



PEOPLE SAY THAT THE ACHAEANS ARE READY TO SURROUND SPARTA. I THOUGHT YOU HAD TEASED THEM WITH AN ALLIANCE...

I WAS BETRAYED BY REBELS... I'M DONE FOOLING THE ACHAEANS. BUT I POSSESS OTHER RESOURCES AND OTHER FRIENDS.

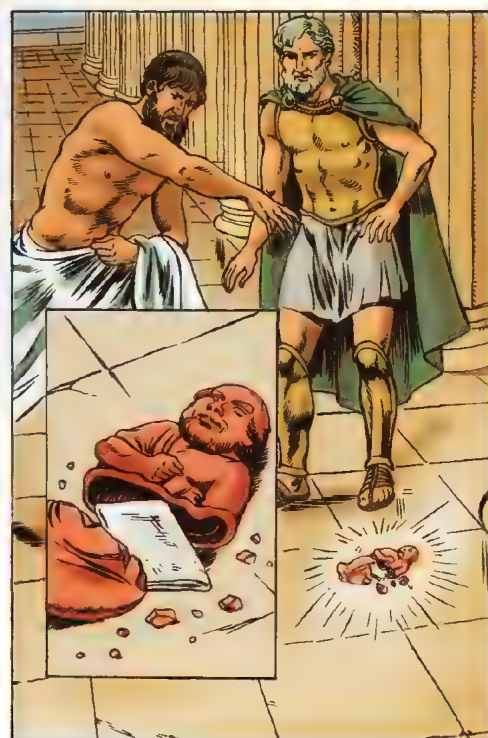


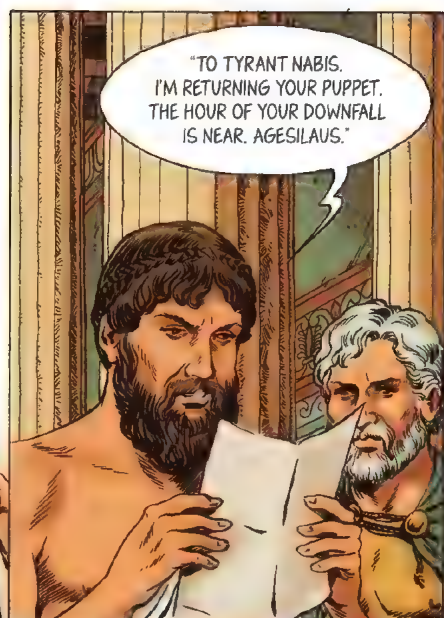
PEOPLE ALSO SAY THAT YOU'VE HIRED DIDIORUS, THE FAMOUS BOUNTY HUNTER. I WONDER IF HE LIVES UP TO HIS REPUTATION AS A BEAUTIFUL MALE...



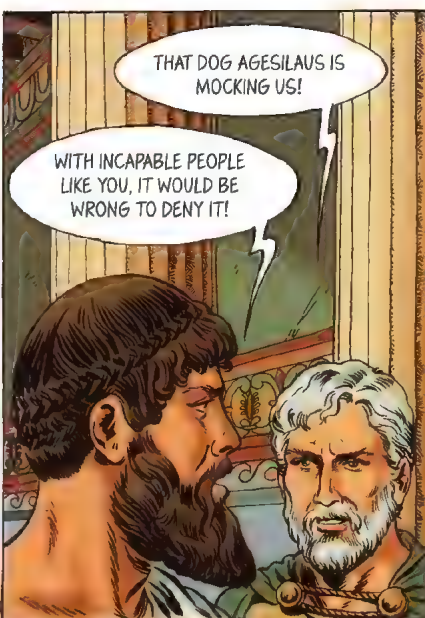
NABIS, GENERAL ALEXANDROS IS HERE. HE WISHES TO SPEAK TO YOU!

LEAVE US, APIA.





"TO TYRANT NABIS,
I'M RETURNING YOUR PUPPET.
THE HOUR OF YOUR DOWNFALL
IS NEAR, AGESILAUS."



THAT DOG AGESILAUS IS
MOCKING US!

WITH INCAPABLE PEOPLE
LIKE YOU, IT WOULD BE
WRONG TO DENY IT!



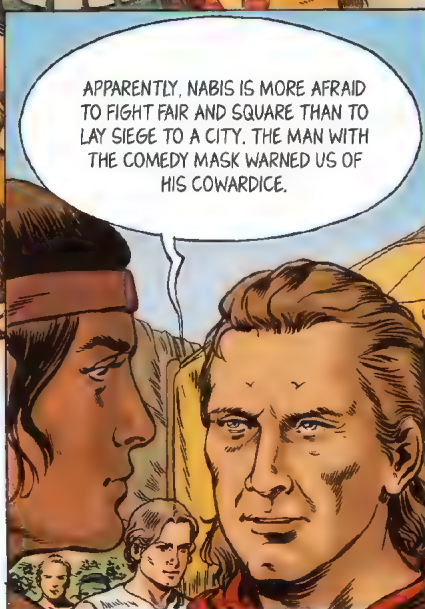
APIA? YOU HAVE
RETURNED!

ALEXANDROS, WHAT A
PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN
AFTER SUCH A LONG JOURNEY.
I BELIEVE I CAME AT THE
RIGHT MOMENT...



YOUR MEN ARE BORED.
THEY ARE HERE TO FIGHT, NOT TO
STAND AROUND.

I KNOW, GORGAS. YOU
BELIEVE THIS INACTIVITY
DOESN'T BOTHER ME?



APPARENTLY, NABIS IS MORE AFRAID
TO FIGHT FAIR AND SQUARE THAN TO
LAY SIEGE TO A CITY. THE MAN WITH
THE COMEDY MASK WARNED US OF
HIS COWARDICE.



I REFUSE TO FALL INTO A
TRAP IN A WAR OF ATTRITION. WE
NEED TO CHALLENGE THE WOLF,
UNTIL HE DECIDES TO COME OUT
OF ITS LAIR. WE ARE DEALING WITH
AN COWARD, BUT HE'S FAR FROM
BEING AN IDIOT.



AMONG MULTIPLE VIRTUES OF WINE,
THERE IS THAT OF BLURRED VISION...

...AND OF MAKING LESS
DEMANDING LOVERS.



NO TOUCHING!
HERE WE PAY FIRST AND
FEEL LATER!

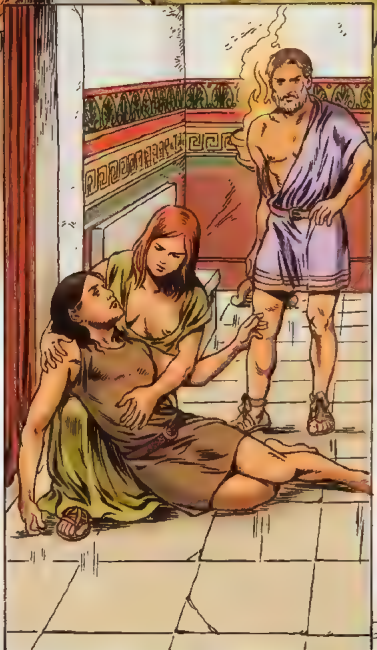


WE DON'T BOTHER
LADIES HERE.



YOU DON'T
KNOW WHO YOU'RE
TALKING TO.

OH, I DO! A DRUNKARD
WHO CAN'T STAND ON HIS LEGS
ANYMORE. COME ON, XENIA, LET'S
SEE IF HE HAS A PRESENT FOR US.



STOP!

STAY OUT OF IT!



I'M WARNING YOU! THIS
MAN WAS HIRED BY NABIS
HIMSELF. YOU WANT TO DEAL
WITH THE KING'S MEN?



COME, LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE.

IF YOU COME BACK,
DON'T FORGET TO FILL YOUR
PURSE. AND NOT THE WAY
YOU'RE THINKING OF.

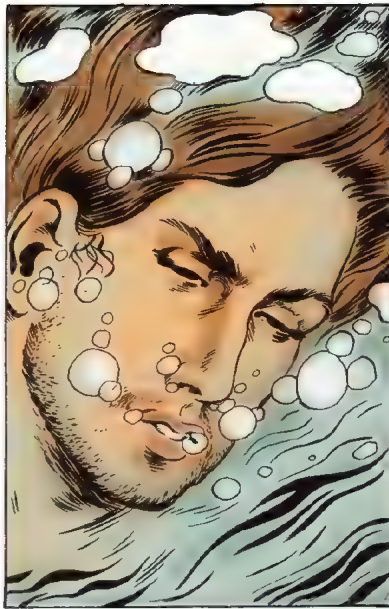


COME, DIODORUS,
LET'S GO!

DAMN IT, NESTOR!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR
BUSINESS!



THIS WILL REFRESH
YOUR IDEAS!



KOF!
KOF!
KOF!

I HOPE YOU'RE
FEELING BETTER.



WHEN ARE YOU FINALLY
GOING TO LEAVE ME ALONE?
YOU'RE NOT MY WARDEN!

NO, BUT I'M YOUR
FRIEND! AND I CAN'T
LET YOU DOWN.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND:
I'M STUCK! WHATEVER I
DO, I LOSE!

WHAT HAPPENED
ON MOUNT PARNON?
TELL ME!



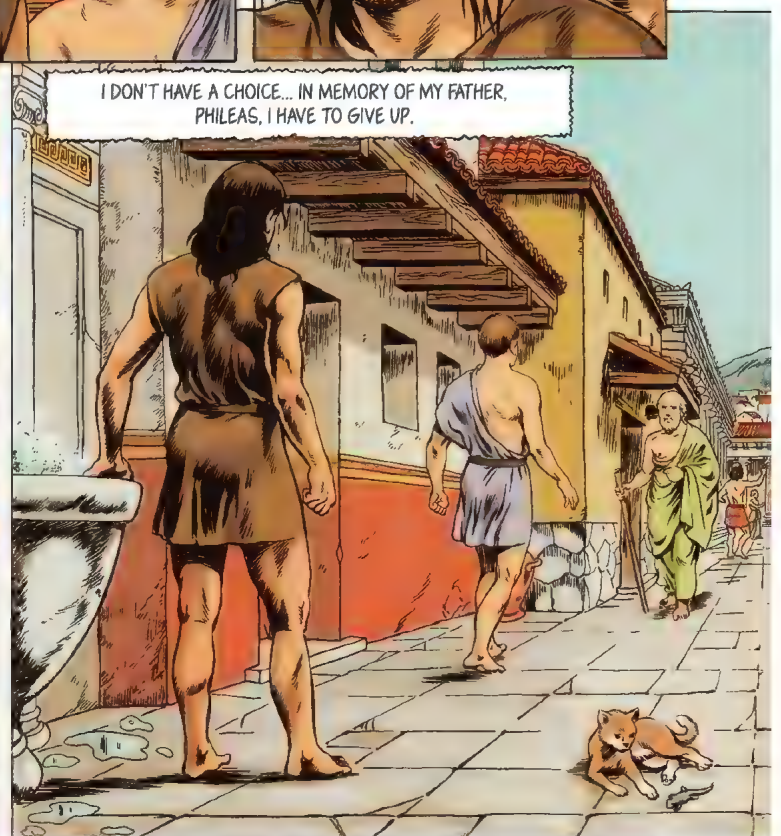
DORKIS IS A
PRISONER AND...

EXACTLY! YOU DON'T
WANT TO STOP AGESIL-
AUS? YOU FORGOT ABOUT
THE REWARD?



POOR DORKIS, SON OF BEAUTIFUL HELEN. GRANDSON OF KING
CLEOMENES. NIGHTMARE OF NABIS.

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND.
LET ME DRINK. SLEEP WITH
WOMEN AND FORGET. IT'S ALL I
CAN DO PROPERLY.



I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE... IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER,
PHILEAS, I HAVE TO GIVE UP.

KINGDOM OF MACEDONIA,
CITY OF PELLA.

AH, FINALLY! I THOUGHT
YOU WOULD LET ME WAIT
ALL NIGHT.

WATCH YOUR TONGUE!

IN THIS PLACE, YOU ARE NOT
PHILIP V, KING OF MACEDONIA.
YOU ARE JUST A MAN FILLED
WITH DOUBT AND FEAR OF
BEING WRONG.

WOULD YOU BE
CLAIRVOYANT ENOUGH
TO READ MY THOUGHTS?

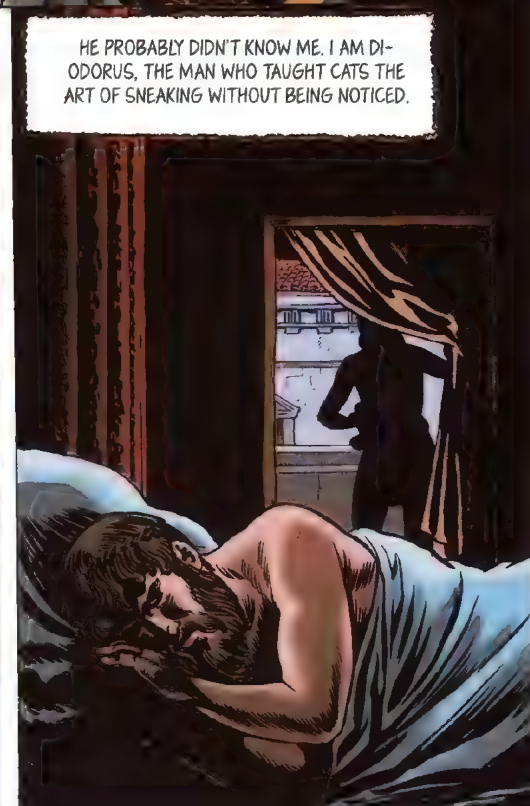
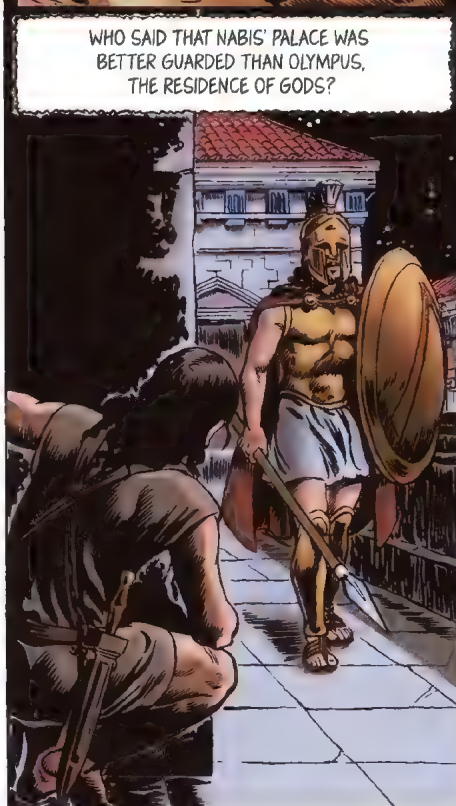
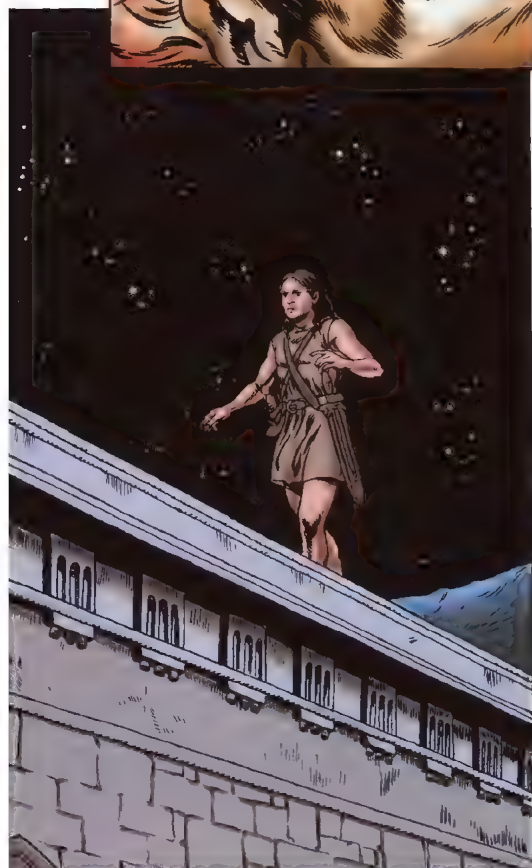
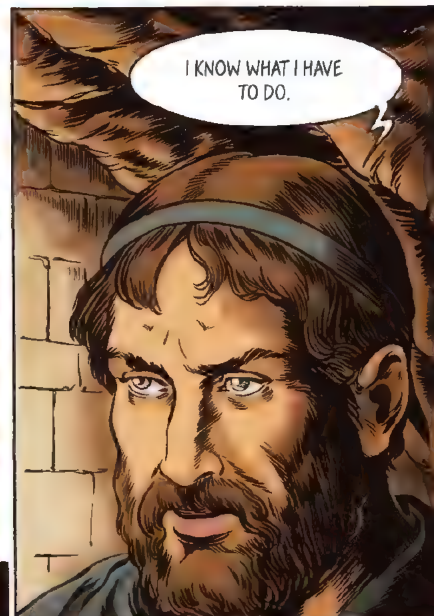
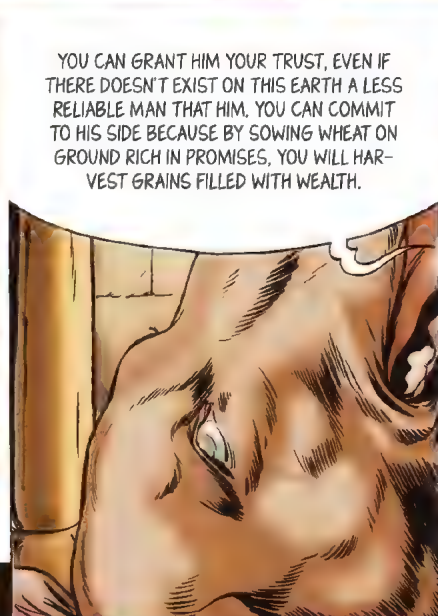
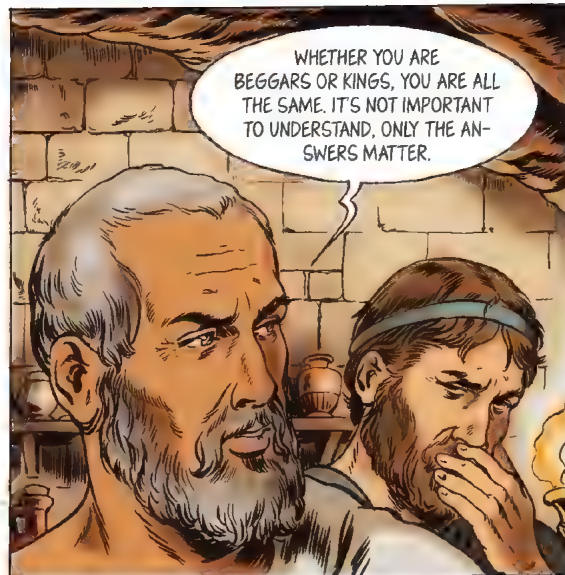
IF YOU WERE WITHOUT
DOUBTS, YOU WOULDN'T BE IN
THIS CAVE, IN A DISTRICT OF ILL
REPUTE. BUT REJOICE, I HAVE
GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.

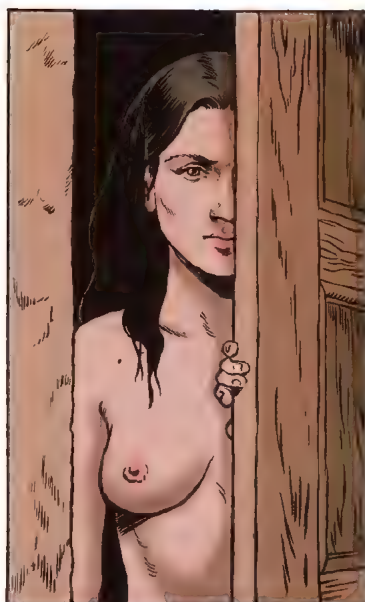
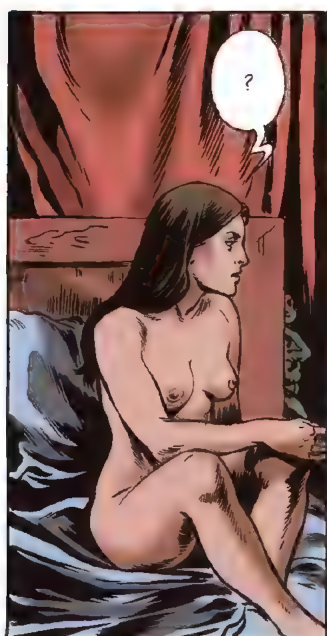
I HOPE SO. ESPECIALLY
AS YOU REQUIRED A GREAT
SACRIFICE FROM ME.

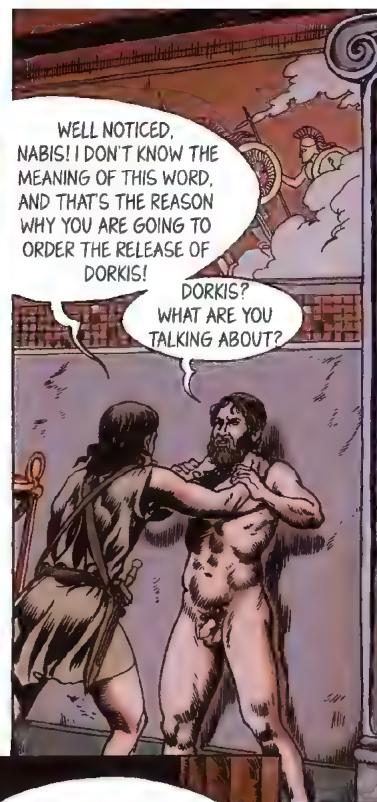
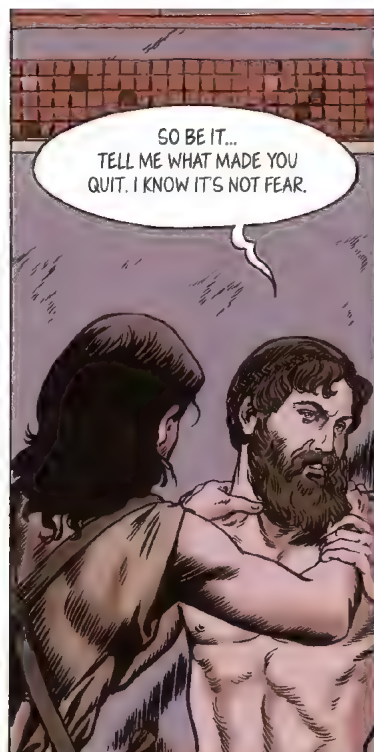
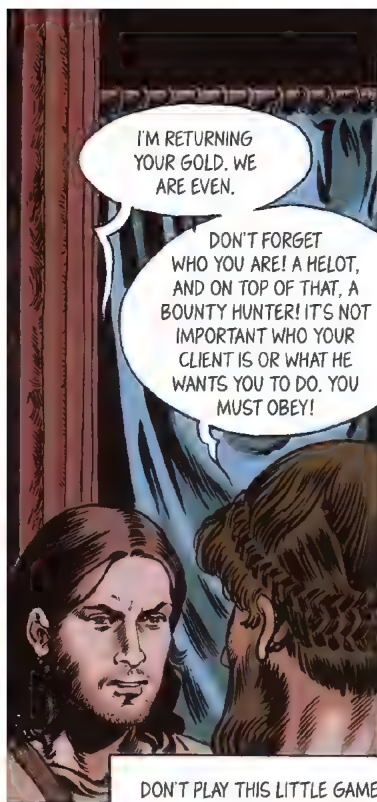
THAT IS THE PRICE TO PAY! TO
READ FROM ITS ENTRAILS, THE
ANIMAL HAD TO BE DEAR TO
YOUR HEART.

AND NOW, I CAN ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS.

AND WHAT DOES MY
POOR DOG SAY?









DON'T WORRY, NABIS,
WE'LL CATCH HIM EASILY!

DON'T DO ANYTHING!
I PREFER OUTSIDE AND FREE
KNOWLEDGE... THERE'S
WORK TO BE DONE.



ACHILLES, A PEASANT
WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU.

SEND IT BACK!



GRANT ME A
FEW MOMENTS.



FIRST TAKE THE TIME
TO THROW A LOOK. THEN I WANT
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU ABOUT
THE SITUATION OF FARMERS IN
THIS COUNTRY.



LEAVE US... IT WON'T BE SAID
THAT THE ACHAEANS DO NOT CARE
ABOUT THE POPULATIONS'
WELL-BEING.



WE, POOR PEOPLE OF
LACEDAEMON'S LANDS, SUFFER
A LOT IN THIS SITUATION...



WAR IS CRUEL FOR
ALL OF US.

BUT HERE, YOU WAGE WAR ONLY
AGAINST SOME OLIVE TREES
AND A HANDFUL OF FARMERS.



YOUR HANDS ARE TOO
DELICATE FOR A WOMAN WHO
WORKS THE HARD GROUND.

I LOOK AFTER HENS
AND COLLECT EGGS. IT IS A
TASK THAT REQUIRES THE
GREATEST GENTLENESS.



INDEED, YOU SEEM TO
KNOW A LOT ABOUT GEN-
TLENESS... AND EGGS!

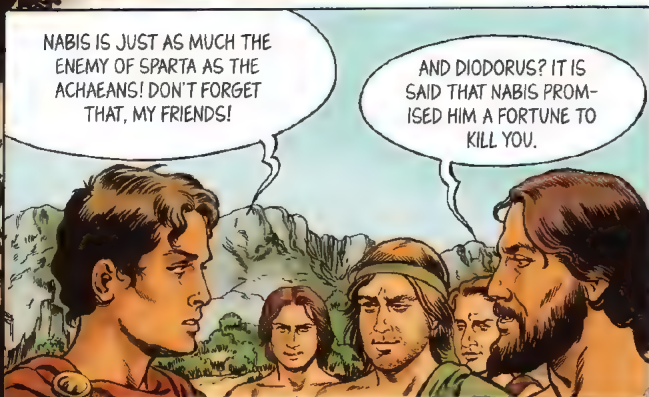
YOU CAN'T EVEN
IMAGINE.



THIS WAR IS NOT OURS. NABIS HARVEST FRUITS POISONED BY HIS TREACHERY.

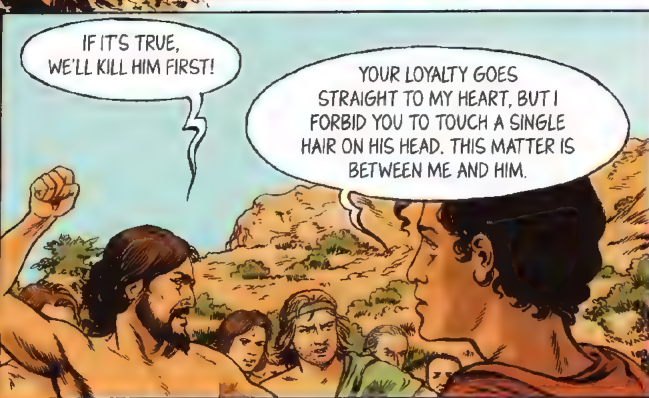
BUT WE CAN'T LET SPARTA CRUMBLE. WE HAVE SWORN TO DEFEND OUR CITY!

HE'S RIGHT!



NABIS IS JUST AS MUCH THE ENEMY OF SPARTA AS THE ACHAEANS! DON'T FORGET THAT, MY FRIENDS!

AND DIODORUS? IT IS SAID THAT NABIS PROMISED HIM A FORTUNE TO KILL YOU.



IF IT'S TRUE, WE'LL KILL HIM FIRST!

YOUR LOYALTY GOES STRAIGHT TO MY HEART, BUT I FORBID YOU TO TOUCH A SINGLE HAIR ON HIS HEAD. THIS MATTER IS BETWEEN ME AND HIM.



WHAT PRECISELY DO YOU WANT FROM US, AGESILAUS? MUST WE CONTINUE OUR FIGHT AGAINST NABIS, WHILE THE ACHAEANS ARE THREATENING OUR LAND?



DIODORUS DIDN'T KILL ME WHEN HE WAS IN A POSITION TO DO SO. I WILL NOT SHOW THE SAME CLEMENCY.



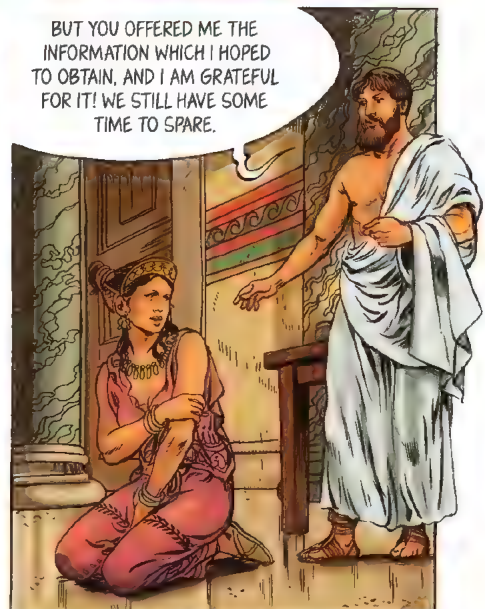
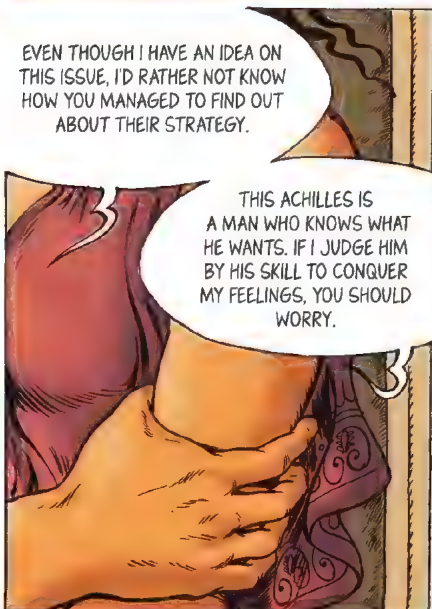
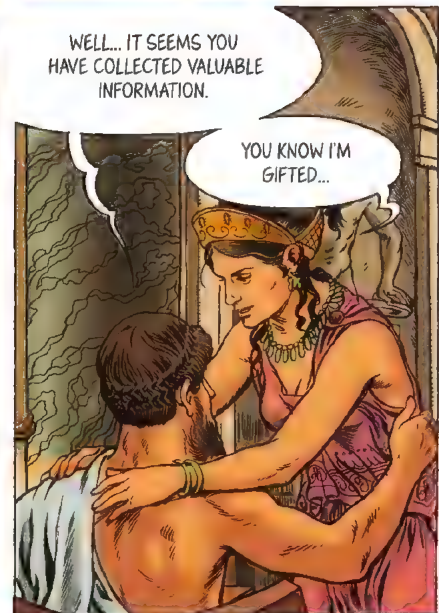
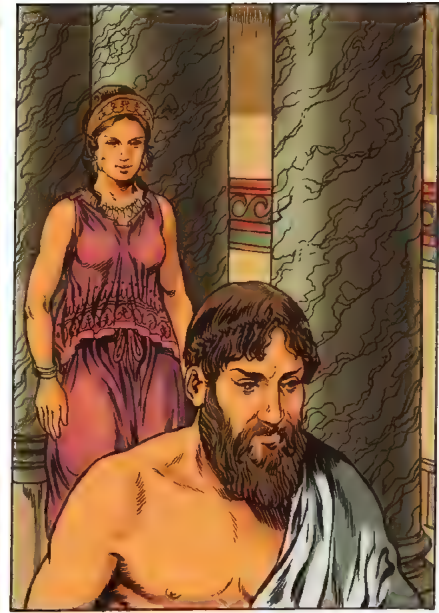
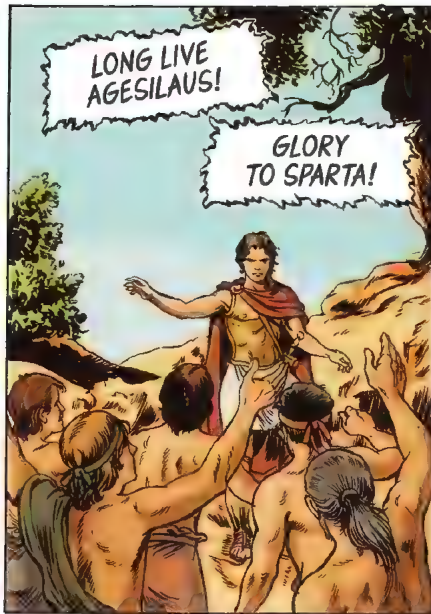
SONS OF SPARTA! WE WILL RESTORE THE POWER OF OUR CITY. WE ARE GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE IN THE CITY. AND WE ARE GOING TO TAKE THE STATUE OF THE HOLY ATHENA!

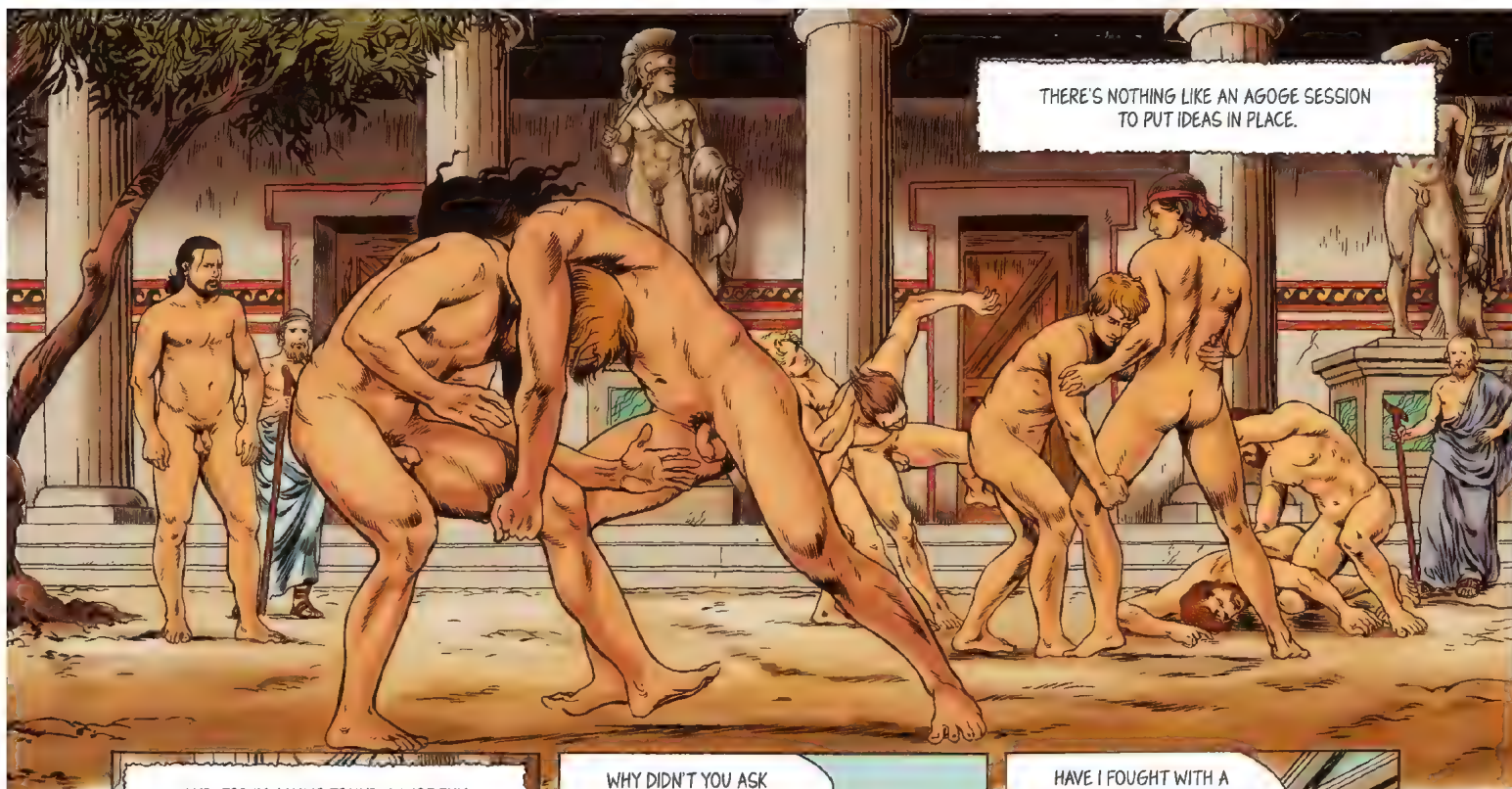


THE STATUE?

FROM THE SACRED SANCTUARY?

YES, AND WE WILL HONOR IT WITH SUCH FERVOR THAT IT WILL BRING US VICTORY.





THERE'S NOTHING LIKE AN AGOGÉ SESSION TO PUT IDEAS IN PLACE.



AND TODAY, I HAVE FOUND A WORTHY OPPONENT THAT MADE ME SWEAT.



WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR MERCY? I ALMOST CHOKED YOU!

A SPARTAN NEVER ASKS FOR MERCY.



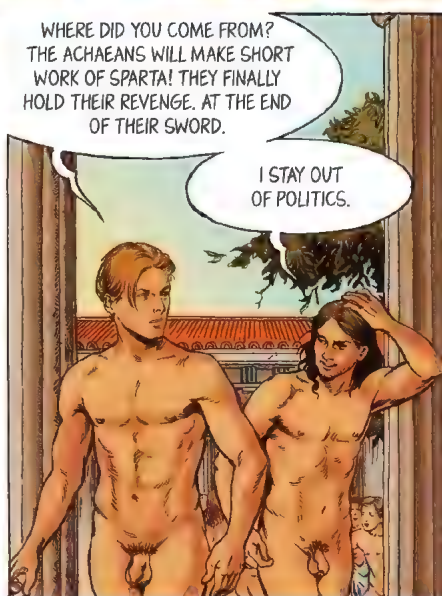
HAVE I FOUGHT WITH A SPARTAN OF THE OLD STYLE? I THOUGHT THAT THIS VALIANT RACE NO LONGER EXISTED. WHO ARE YOU?

I GO BY THE NAME OF LEONIDAS AND I STILL BELIEVE IN ANCIENT VIRTUES OF OUR CITY.



BUT I'M AFRAID THAT TODAY, THIS WHOLE CITY IS THE ONE THAT DEMANDS MERCY.

WHY?



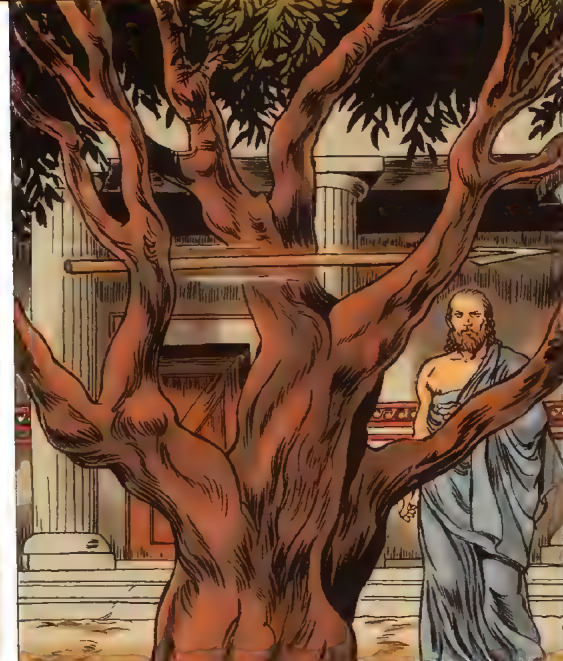
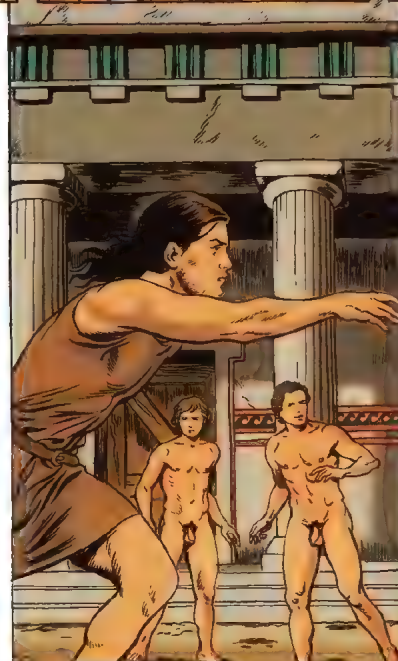
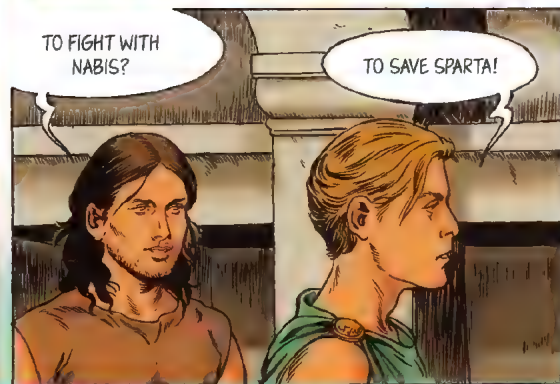
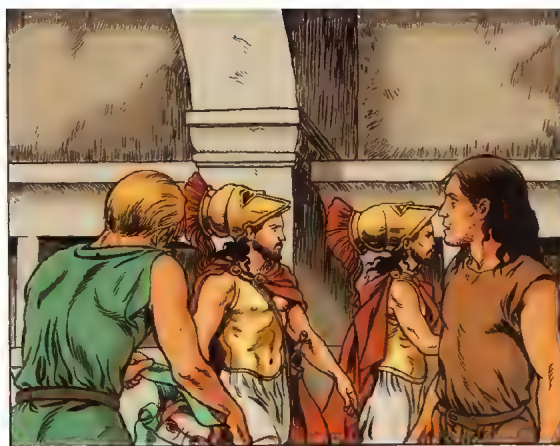
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? THE ACHAEANS WILL MAKE SHORT WORK OF SPARTA! THEY FINALLY HOLD THEIR REVENGE. AT THE END OF THEIR SWORD.

I STAY OUT OF POLITICS.



I KNOW YOU'RE A BOUNTY HUNTER.

IT APPEARS I'M WELL-KNOWN IN THIS CITY. AND WHO ARE YOU?



YOU WERE RIGHT, NESTOR. A LITTLE LESS WOMEN AND WINE WAS ENOUGH... AND I FOUND MY FORM AGAIN, THAT OF A YOUNG MAN!

THEN YOU ARE READY TO CORNER AGESILAUS AND DEMAND THE RELEASE OF DORKIS?



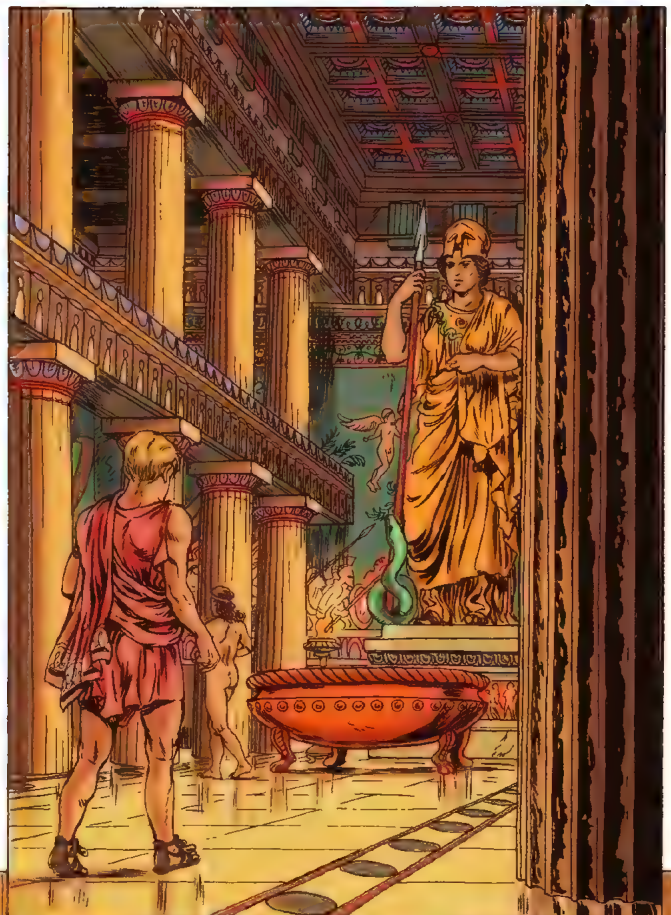
IT'S TIME TO TELL THE TRUTH, EVEN IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR IT.

I GAVE UP ON THIS CONTRACT.



WHAT?

THIS IS THE CASE OF BOUNTY HUNTERS. I HAVE NO SHORTAGE OF CLIENTS, DON'T WORRY FOR ME. AS FOR DORKIS, NABIS WON'T HURT HIM, TRUST ME!



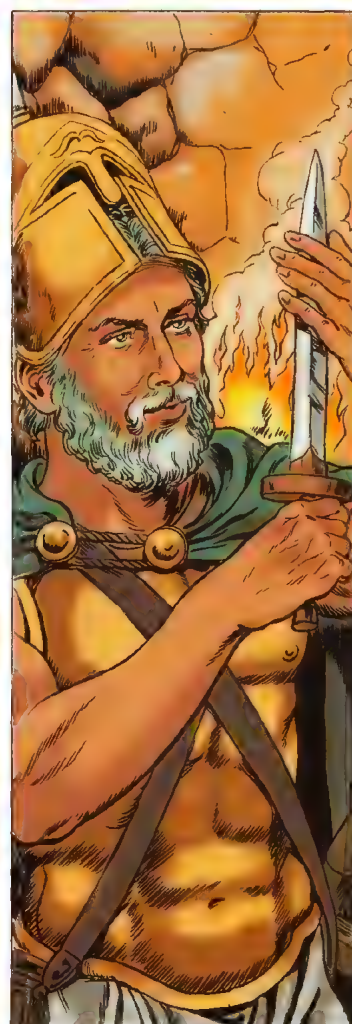
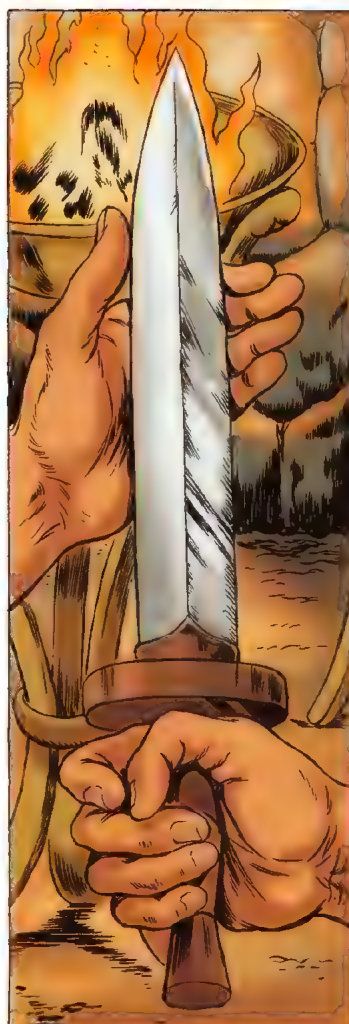
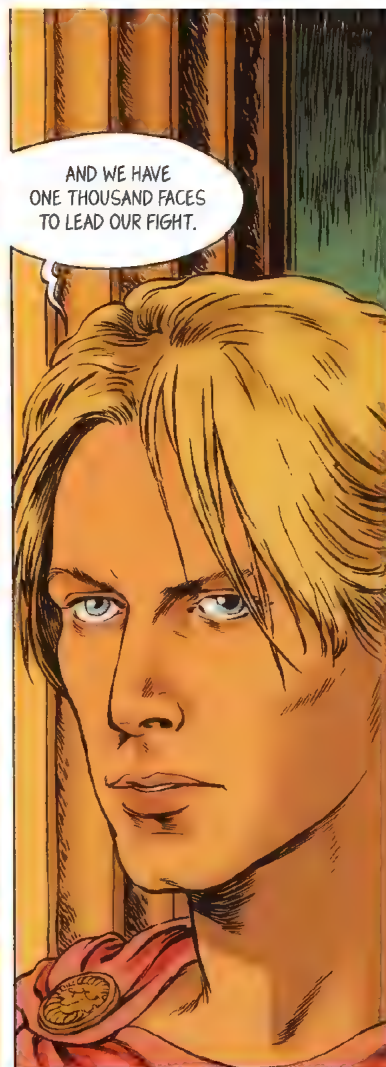
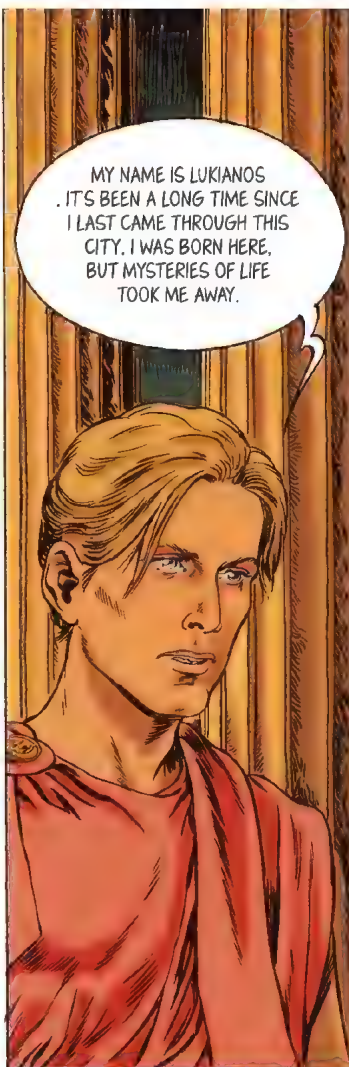
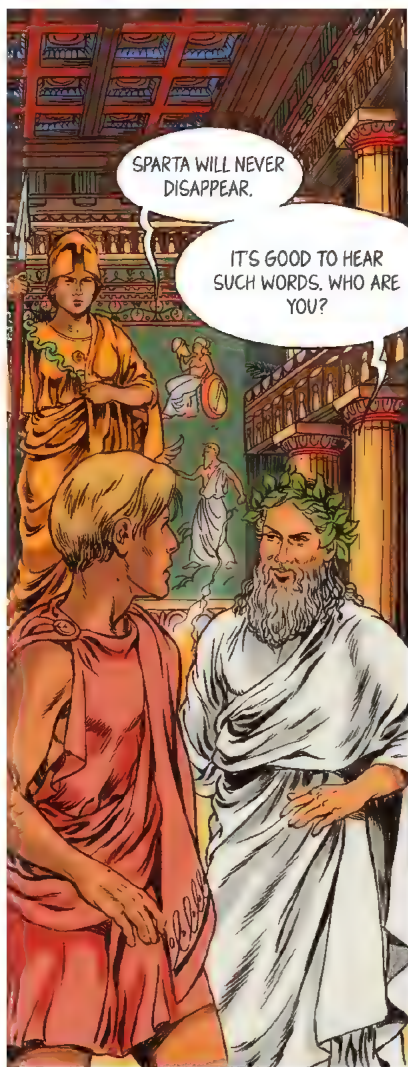
SUCH GENEROSITY! THANK YOU, STRANGER!

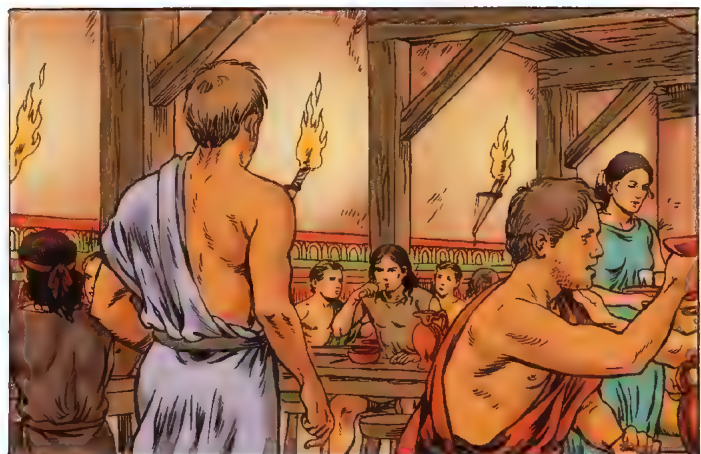
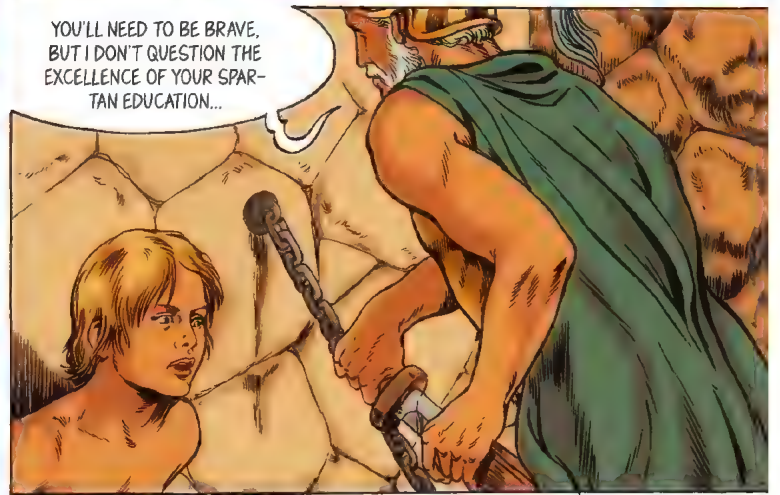
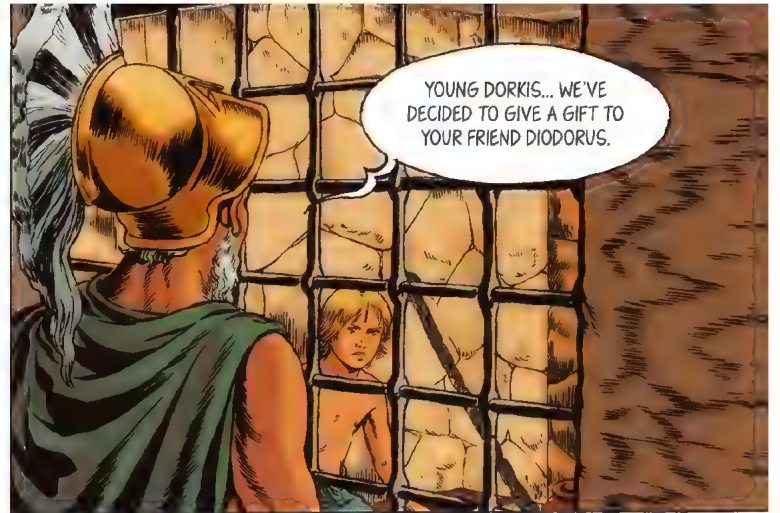
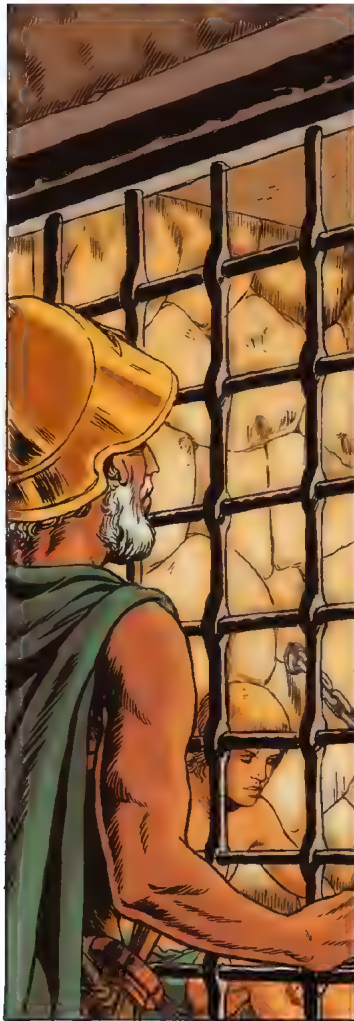


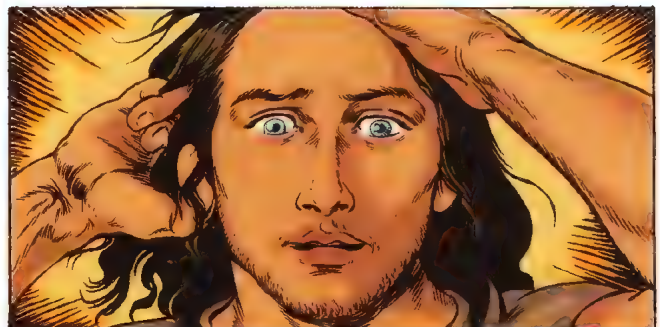
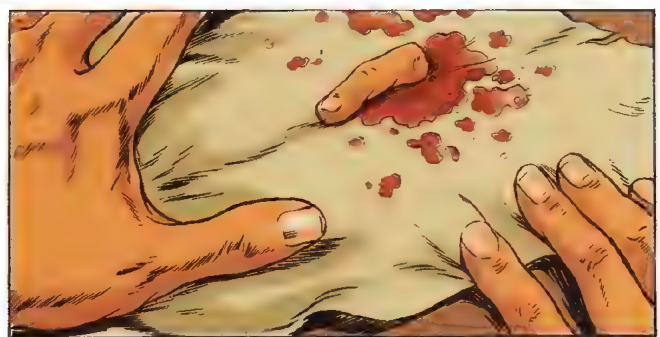
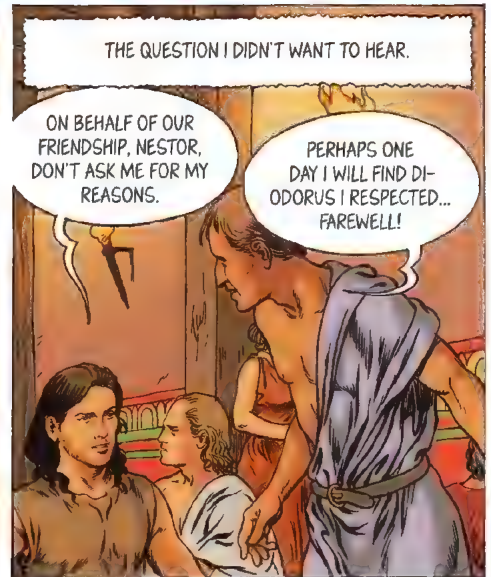
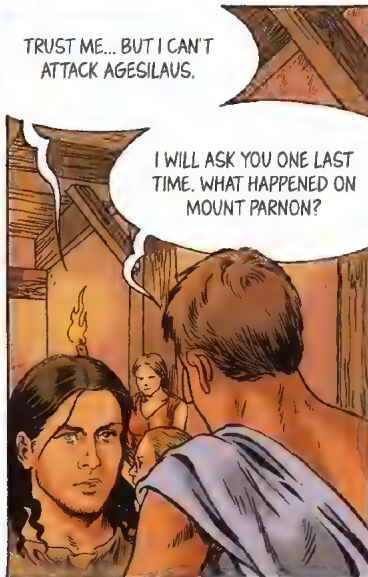
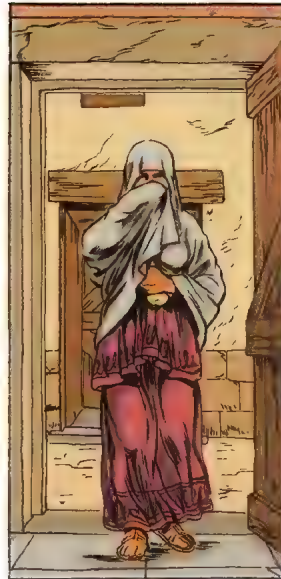
I'VE COME A LONG WAY TO HONOR HER.

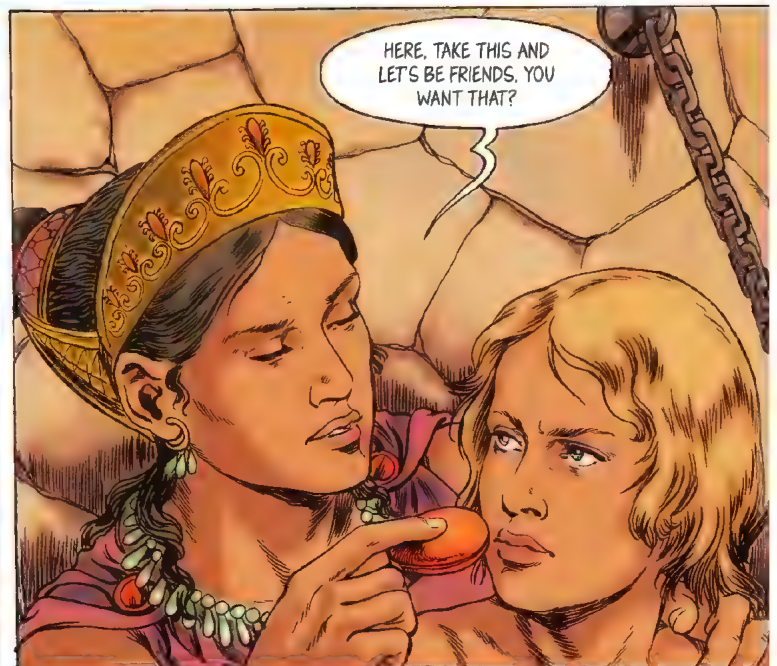
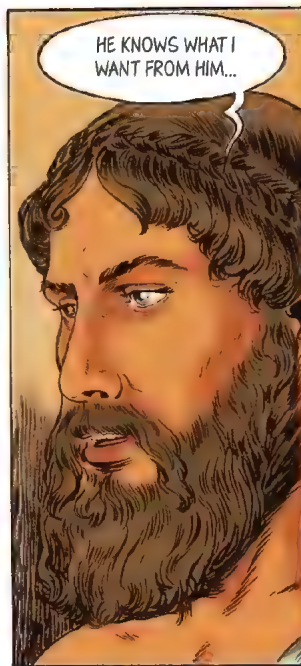
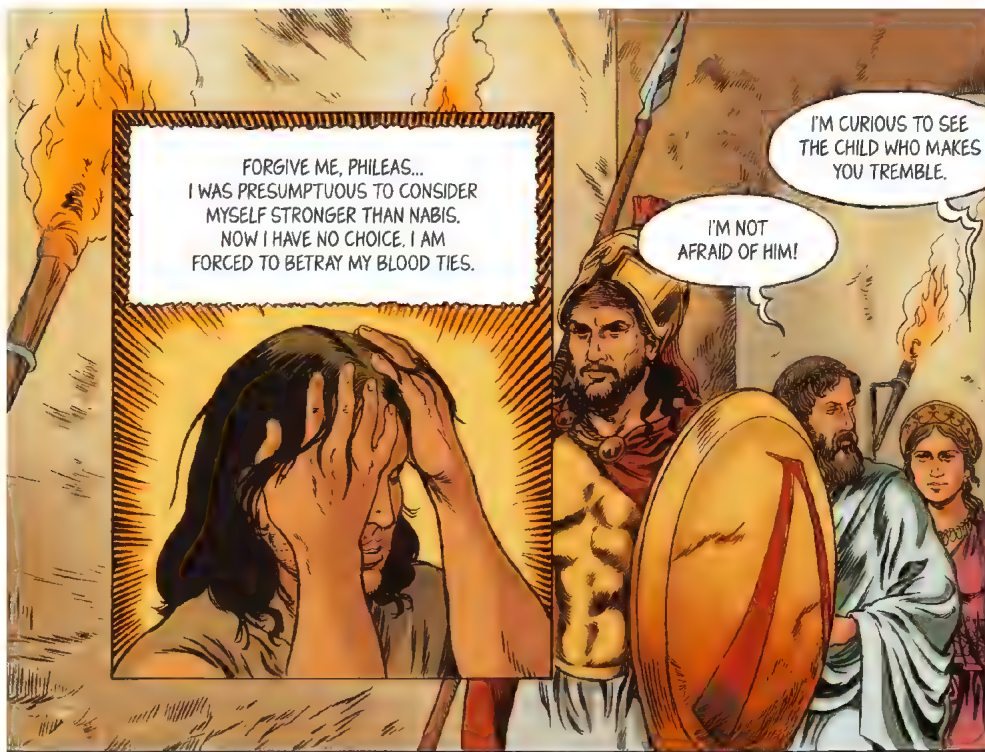
IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, OUR CITY NEEDS ATHENA.

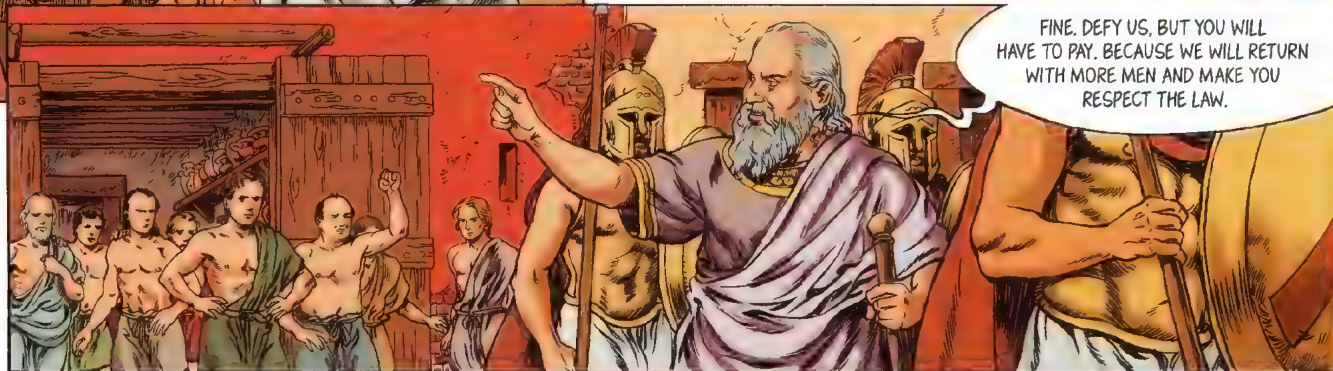
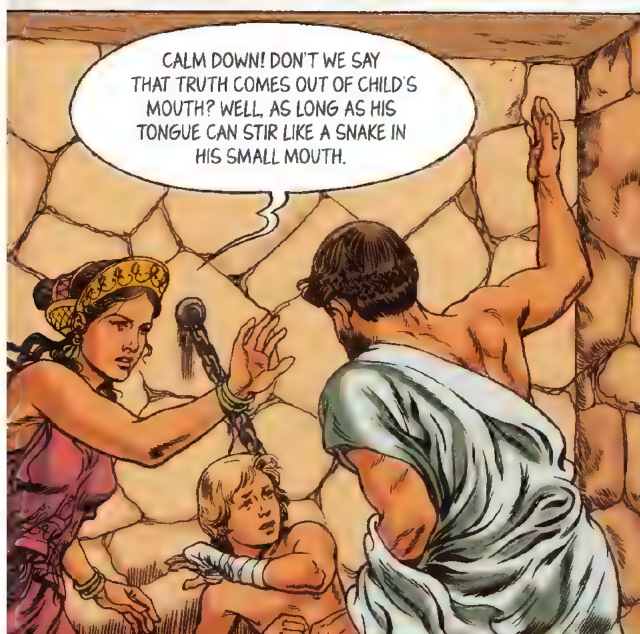


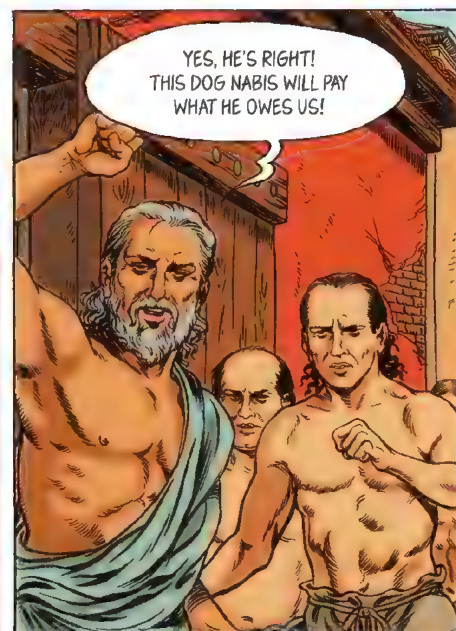
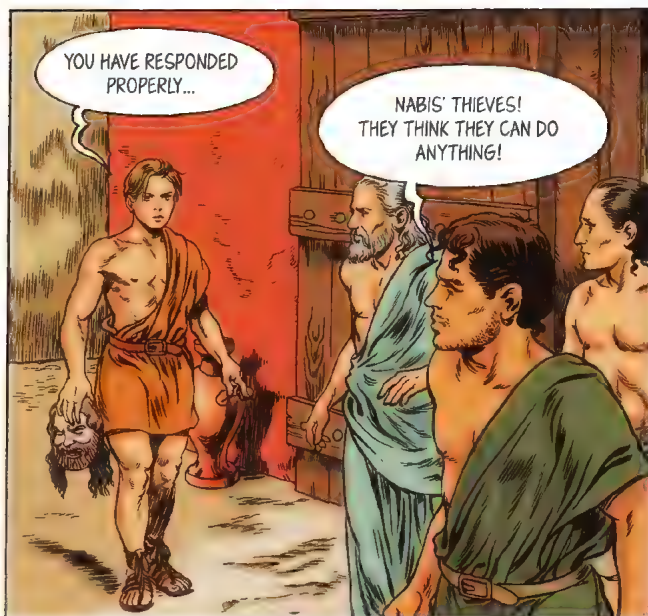


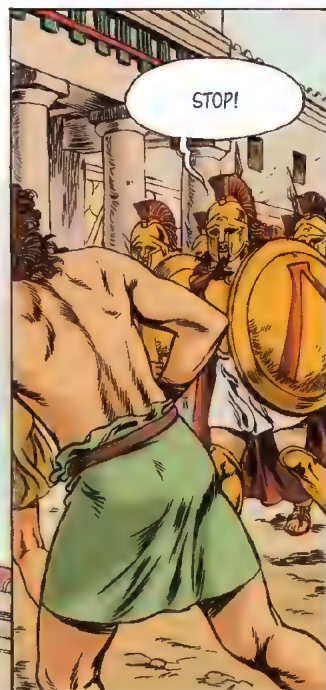
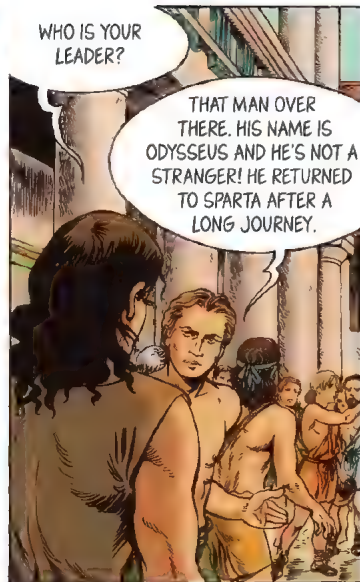


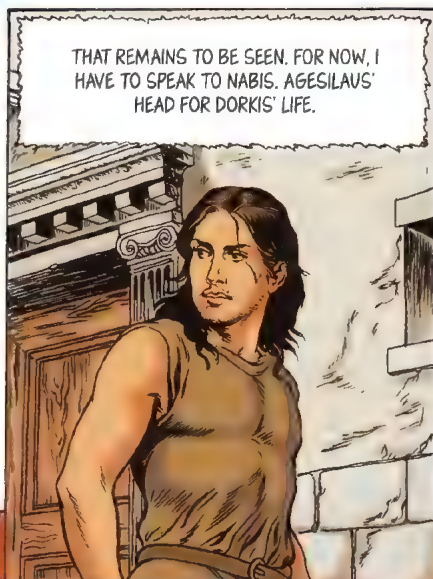
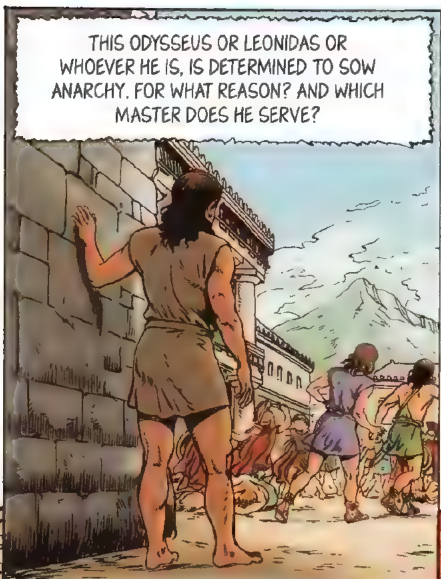












UNFORTUNATELY, THE SITUATION IS NOT SIMPLE. I MUST PROTECT DORKIS AND THINK ABOUT HIS MOTHER, HELEN. AND I NEED TO SACRIFICE AGESILAUS, WHOSE BLOOD RUNS IN MY VEINS.

WHAT A DILEMMA THIS IS! A DRAMA WRITER WOULD HAVE DONE AN INSPIRATIONAL PIECE.







BUT... I RECOGNIZE YOU!
YOU'RE LUKIANOS!



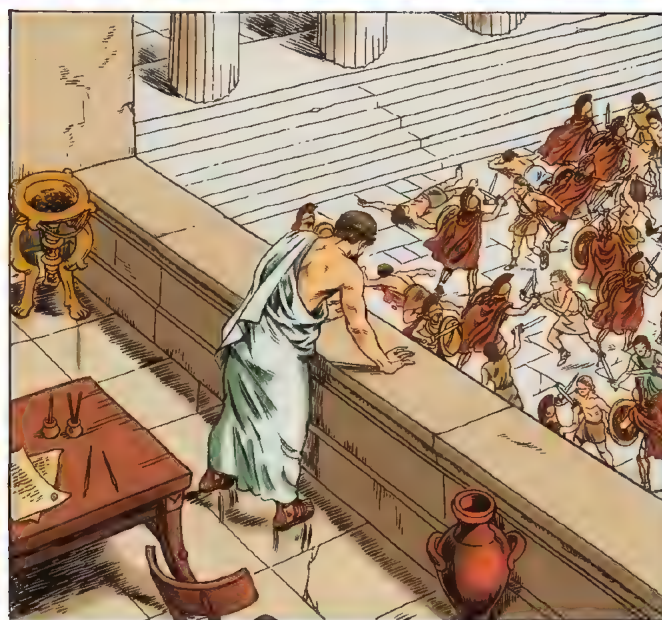
AAAAHHHH...



GO! TAKE
THE STATUE!



AGESILAUS WILL
BE PLEASED!



THESE DOGS WILL PAY!
PEOPLE ARE WILDER THAN A
HERD OF GOATS, ALWAYS
READY TO FOLLOW A BAD
PATH.



THE ACHAEAN TRAITORS
ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE
HEATED THEIR SPIRITS. UNLESS
WE ARE TO INTERPRET THIS
AS ONE OF AGESILAUS'
PROVOCATIONS.

KING, YOU HAVE A
VISITOR.



SPARTA IS BEING PLUN-
DERED. I DON'T HAVE TIME
TO RECEIVE ANYONE.

HE COMES FROM
MACEDONIA... ON
PERSONAL ORDER BY
KING PHILIP.



BRING HIM IN,
QUICKLY!



GOOD THING NESTOR DIDN'T SEE ME.
HE WOULD LECTURE ME AGAIN.



HURRY UP, NABIS IS
EXPECTING ME.

I'M AFRAID THAT
IS IMPOSSIBLE. YOU KNOW,
OUR KING HAS A LOT OF
RESPONSIBILITIES. THERE IS
NO TIME...



NO TIME? BUT I HAVE
TO SPEAK TO HIM!

YOU DIDN'T
LIKE THE GIFT?



THIS HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH...

THINK AGAIN AND DON'T
FORGET YOUR MISSION. NABIS ASKED
ME TO TELL YOU THAT THE CHILD
WILL NOT STAY IN THE CAGE FOR
MUCH LONGER.



HE ADDED THAT YOU
MUST PUT A FINGER ON
THE GOAL... THOSE ARE HIS
OWN WORDS.



YOU DIDN'T
ANSWER ME.
WHO ARE YOU?

YOU ARE MUCH MORE
FAMILIAR WITH THE NAME WE
GIVE TO GIRLS LIKE ME. BUT
PERSONALLY, I CONSIDER MYSELF
A ZEALOUS SERVANT OF OUR
GLORIOUS KING...



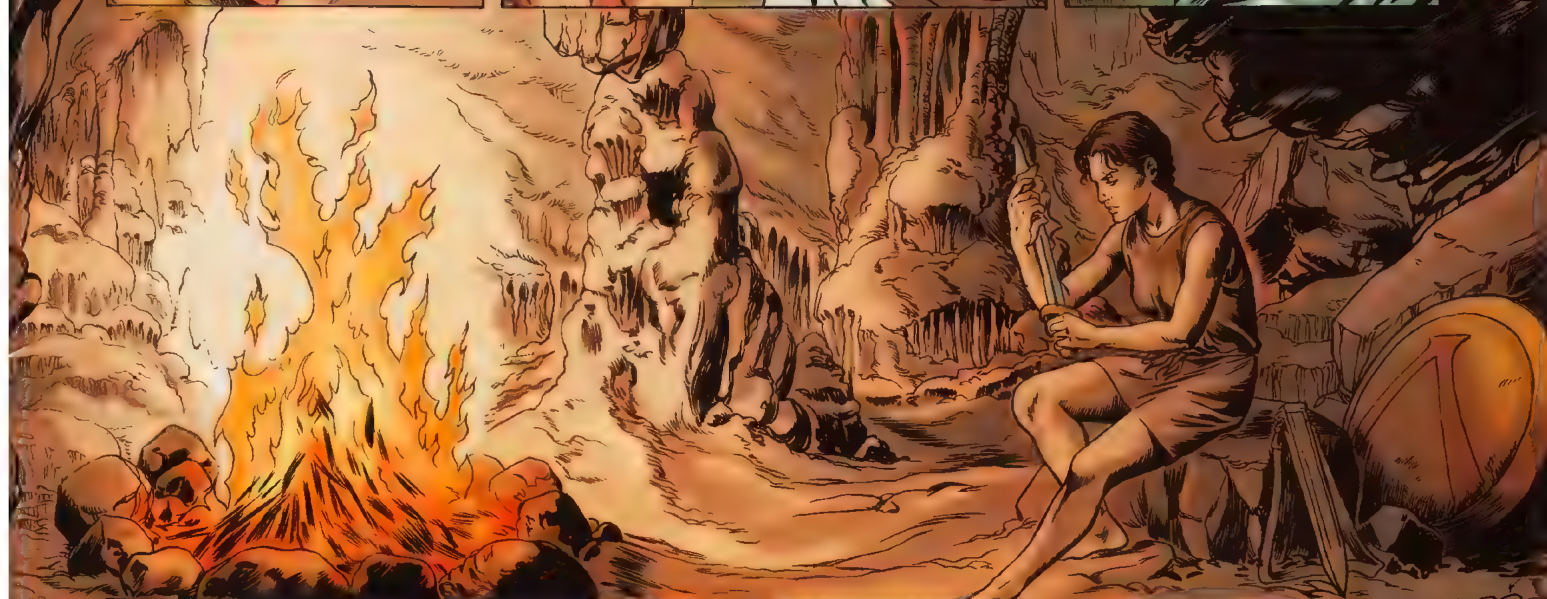
...WHO HOPES TO
GIVE YOU OTHER
GIFTS.

I DON'T HIDE THAT MY MASTER, KING OF MACEDONIA, IS CONCERNED. MINDS ARE HEATING UP IN SPARTA AND STREETS ARE DANGEROUS.

THOSE ARE JUST A FEW TROUBLEMAKERS. DO NOT WORRY.

OUR CITY HATES DISORDER. INSTEAD, LET'S RAISE A GLASS OF WINE TO OUR ALLIANCE.

YOUR KING WILL NOT REGRET IT!



MENELAUS!
YOU'RE BACK!

YES, AND REJOICE,
OUR MISSION WAS A
COMPLETE SUCCESS! SPARTA
IS PLUNGING INTO DISORDER.
ACHILLES IS READY TO FIGHT
NABIS, AND THE STATUE OF
ATHENA BELONGS TO YOU.

I WISH I COULD BE
THERE, BUT BETWEEN
NABIS' MEN AND THIS
LEECH DIODORUS, I BECAME
A VERY DESIRABLE
TARGET.

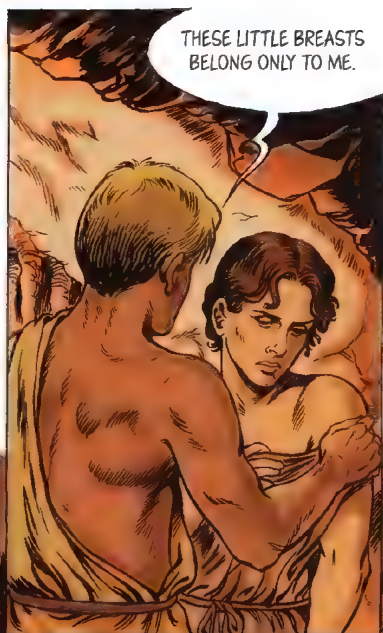
DON'T WORRY,
IT WAS ALMOST TOO
EASY! NOW I DESERVE
MY REWARD.

SWALLOW YOUR ACTOR'S
PRIDE! I WANT TO SEE
THE STATUE OF A GOD.

YOU FORGET THAT
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO
KNOWS ABOUT THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL TREASURE.

THE ONE YOU HIDE
UNDER YOUR TUNIC.

IF ONLY YOU COULD
BE THE ONLY ONE!



THESE LITTLE BREASTS
BELONG ONLY TO ME.

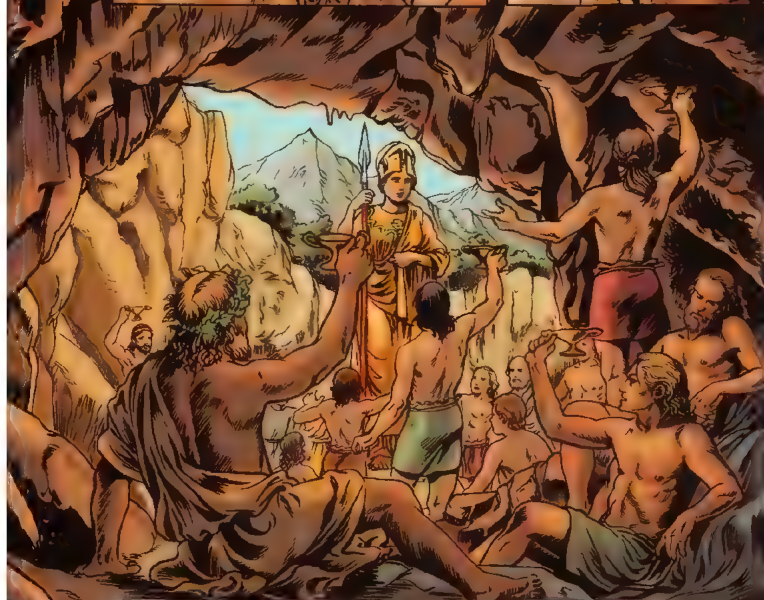


PHILEAS, MY FATHER, WAS
RIGHT. SUCH SECRET MUST NOT
BE SHARED WITH ANYONE.



IF YOU KNEW HOW I
MISSED THIS SENSATION.

MY POOR MANELAUS.
ONE DAY, LIKE DIODORUS,
YOU WILL PAY FOR WHAT YOU
KNOW WITH YOUR LIFE.



THAT COWARD! HE'S EVEN A
BIGGER COWARD I THOUGHT!



THE SOLDIERS OF PHILIP
OF MACEDONIA ARE
MARCHING TOWARDS
SPARTA. BUT THAT'S
NOT ALL...

WHAT IS IT?



THE WOMAN...
THE PEASANT...

WHAT?

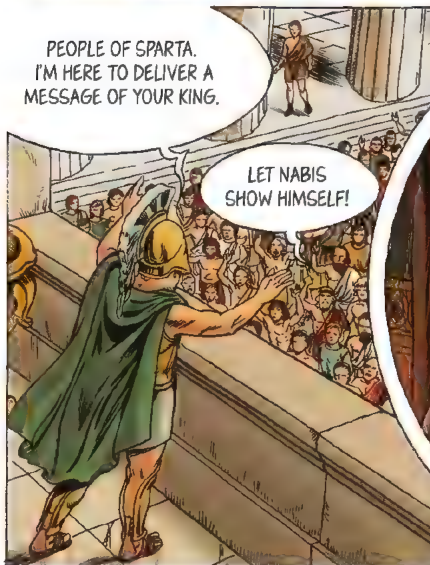
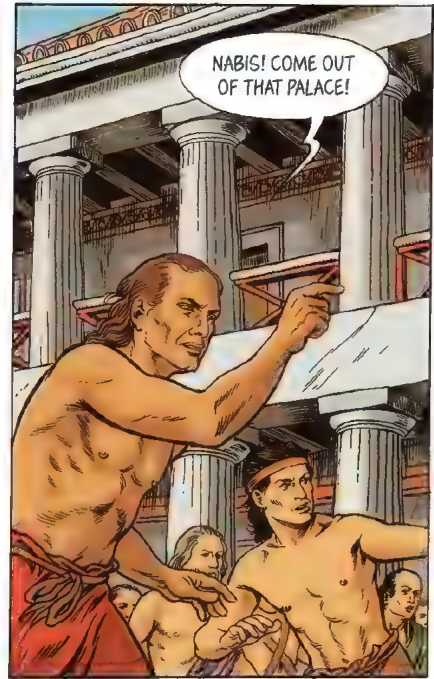
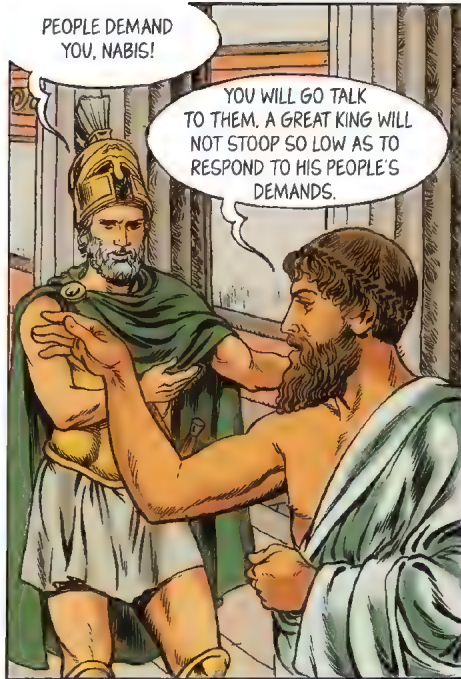
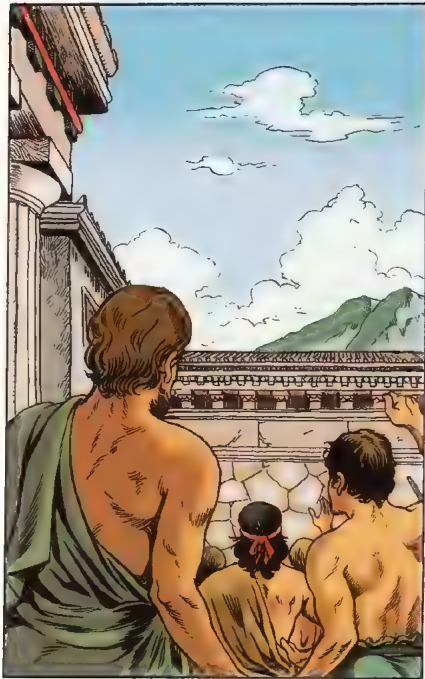


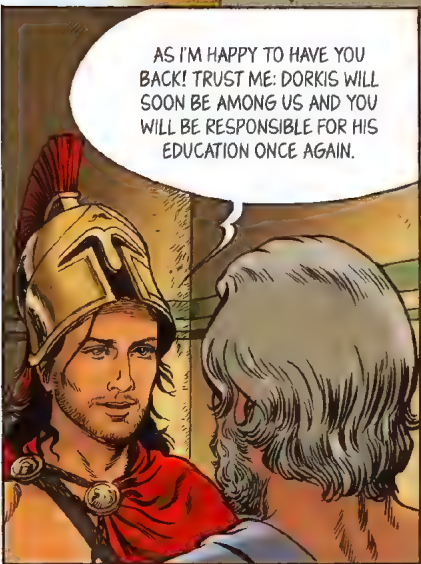
ONE OF OUR MEN SAW
HER IN SPARTA. SHE'S
NOT A PEASANT, SHE...
SHE IS NABIS' WIFE!

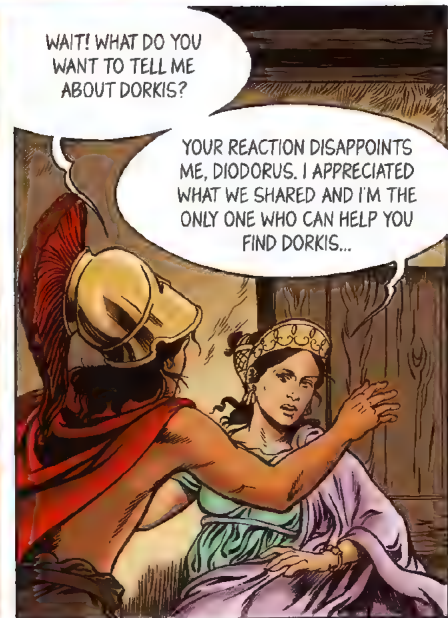
HANDS TOO
BEAUTIFUL TO BE
HONEST.



I WILL TELL MY MEN TO
PREPARE FOR BATTLE. WE
ARE GOING TO FORCE HIM
OUT OF HIS LAIR.











THE ACHAEAN FORCE WILL
OVERCOME OUR ENEMIES. I
KNOW YOUR COURAGE. NOTH-
ING WILL STOP US!



PREPARE YOURSELF!
LET'S WIPE SPARTA
OFF THE MAP!



SPARTA, AGOGÉ.



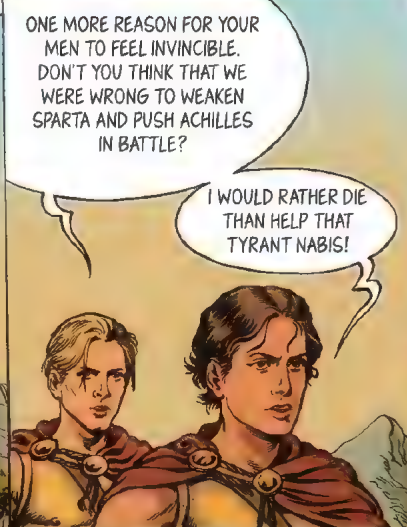
ARE YOU SURE THE
MACEDONIANS WILL
ARRIVE ON TIME?

WITH THE PROMISES
I HAVE MADE, THEY WOULD
BE CRAZY TO REFUSE
MY DEAL!



YOU WILL NOT BE A
BLE TO REMAIN A SPECTATOR
IN FRONT OF THE APPROACH-
ING BATTLE...

WE POSSESS
GODDESS ATHENA.

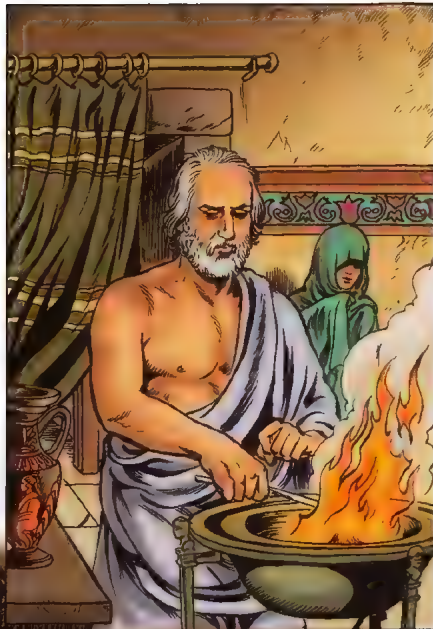
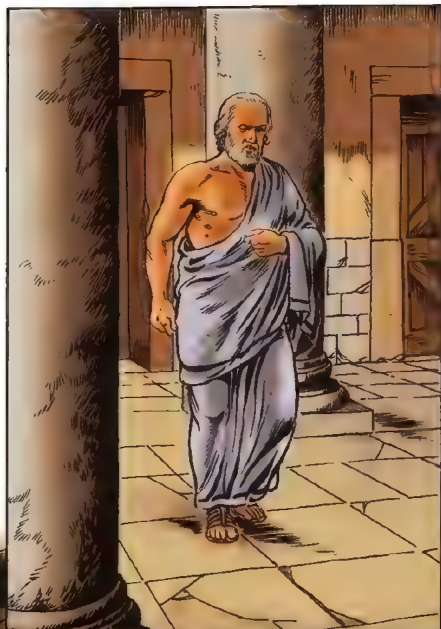


ONE MORE REASON FOR YOUR
MEN TO FEEL INVINCIBLE.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT WE
WERE WRONG TO WEAKEN
SPARTA AND PUSH ACHILLES
IN BATTLE?

I WOULD RATHER DIE
THAN HELP THAT
TYRANT NABIS!



I'M THE ONLY ONE
CAN OPEN YOUR EYES, SO I WILL
TELL YOU THIS: YOU'RE MAKING
A BIG MISTAKE. FACE IT!

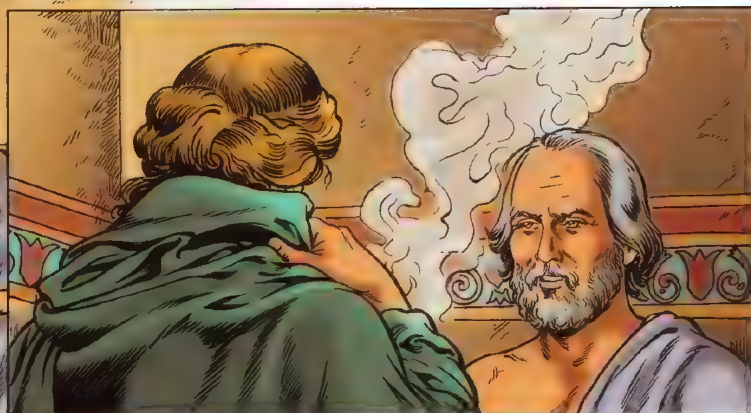


WHO GOES THERE?

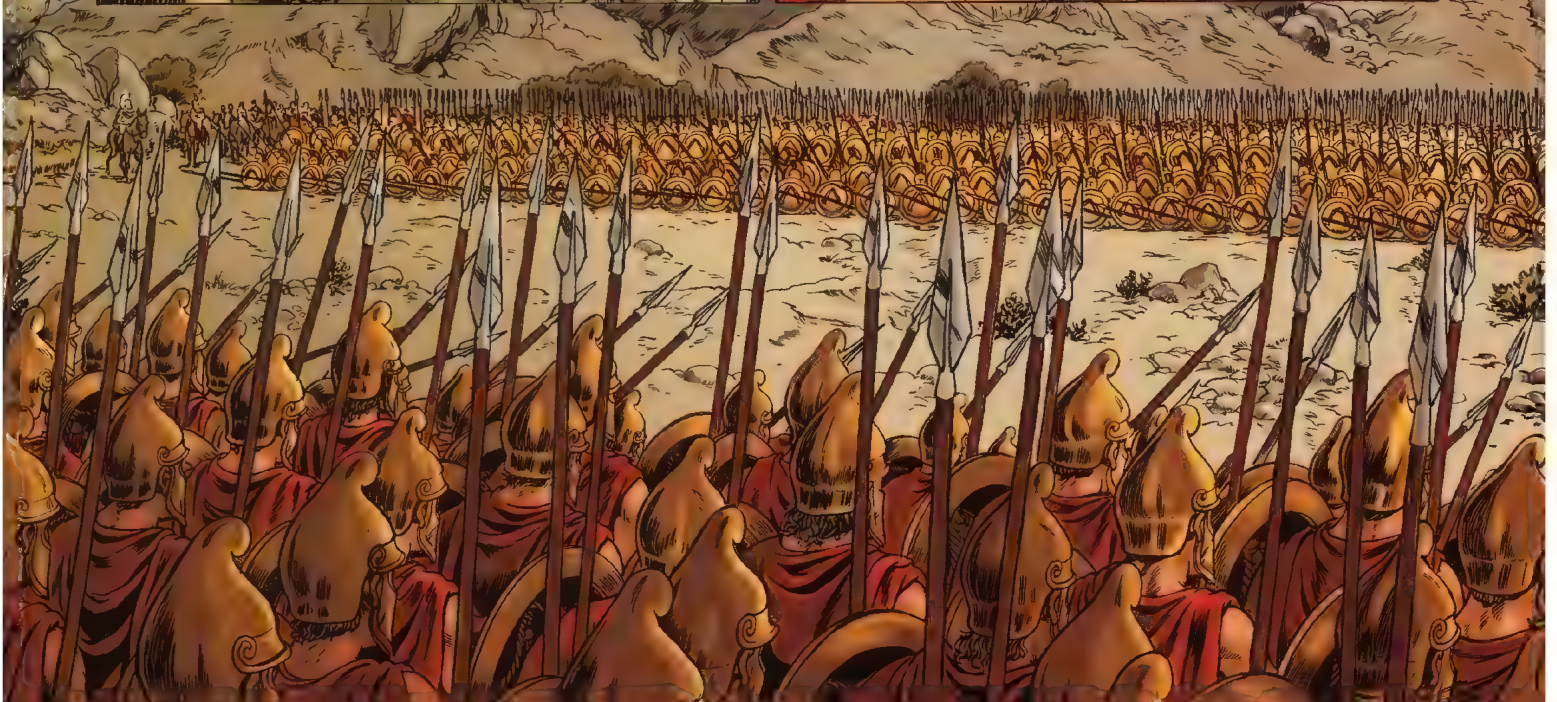
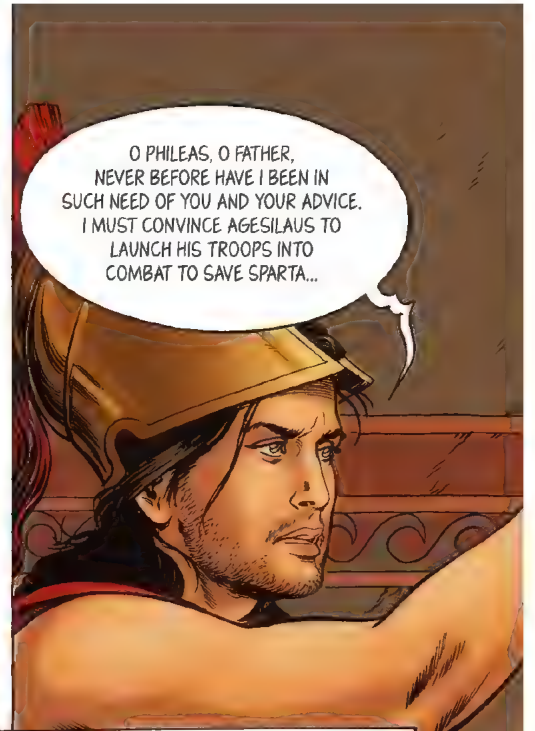
DON'T BE AFRAID.
I HAVE RETURNED...

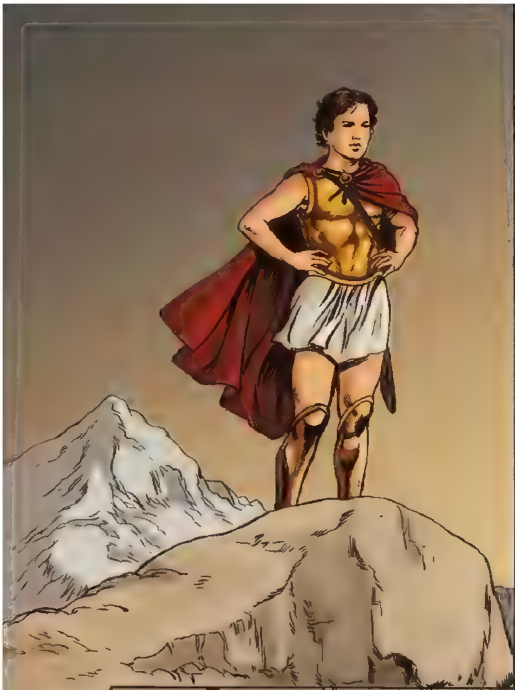
NO! NO! THIS ISN'T
POSSIBLE!

REST ASSURED, XENON,
I HAVE NOT RETURNED FROM
HADES' KINGDOM.



YOU? NOOO....

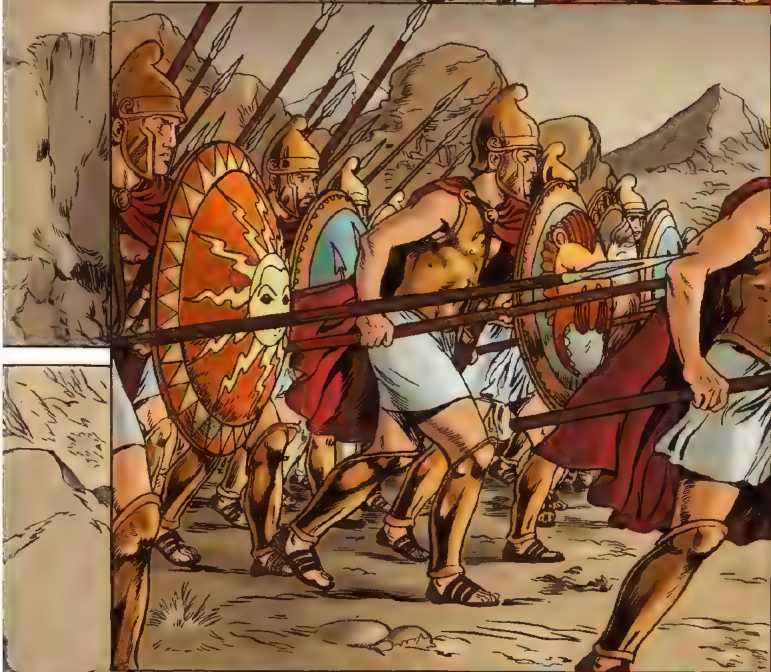




THE GREAT MOMENT IS
HERE. BUT NOT THE ONE I
HAD HOPED FOR.



FORWARD!



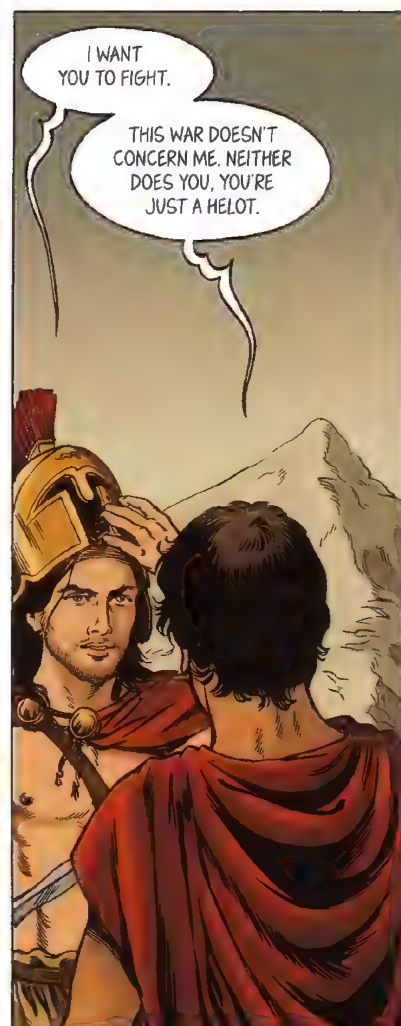
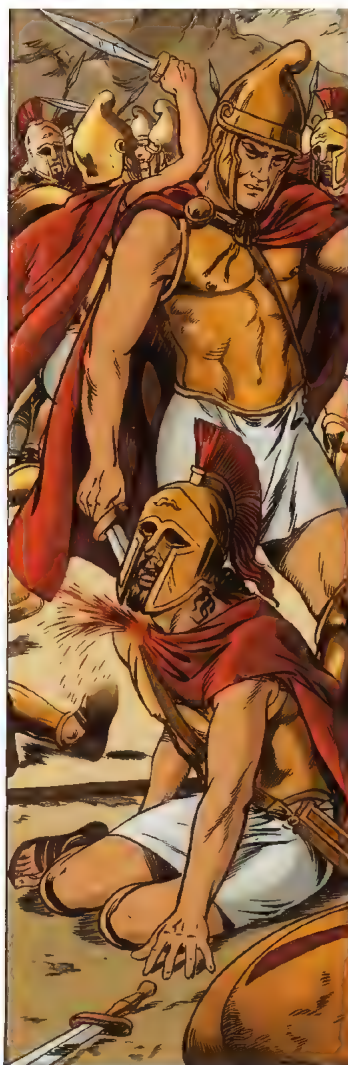
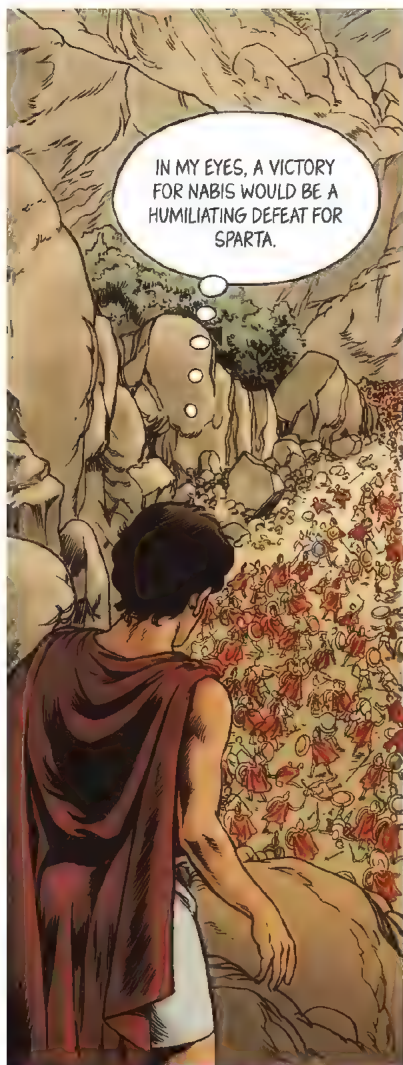
GO, PROUD SPARTANS!
AND NO MERCY!



EVEN THE BRAVEST
DOGS CANNOT
OVERCOME A LION.



ATTACK!





I KNOW THIS IDEA WILL BE UNBEARABLE TO YOU, BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH. THE SAME BLOOD FLOWS IN OUR VEINS. PHILEAS IS OUR FATHER!

YOU LIE! PHILEAS WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN. HE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING!

WHAT MIGHT BE THE OUTCOME OF A BATTLE WHERE THE OPPONENTS POSSESS THE SAME STRENGTHS AND THE SAME TEACHER?

ONE MORE REASON TO WATCH OUT! WE WERE AT THE SAME SCHOOL!

AND I WOULD NEVER LET SPARTA DIE WITHOUT EVEN LIFTING A FINGER!



EVEN IF SHE CAN'T STAND THE IDEA, WE MUST FIGHT TOGETHER.

ALEXANDROS, IT'S A MASSACRE! WE'VE LOST COUNT OF OUR DEAD!



FIGHT, MY BROTHERS! DON'T FORGET YOUR OATH! WE WILL RATHER DIE THAN PUT A KNEE ON THE GROUND!



I WILL URGE MY MEN! AND STOP THEM FROM GUTTING YOU! THEY KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND ABOUT THE MISSION NABIS ENTRUSTED TO YOU.

WHAT ABOUT ME? YOU CAN'T HONESTLY THINK THAT I WILL JUST STAY HERE WITH MY ARMS FOLDED? I WANT TO FIGHT WITH YOU!



AFTER ALL, YOU CAN FIGHT... WITH A BIT OF LUCK, YOU WILL BE SKEWERED BY AN ACHAEAN!





WHO? THE BOUNTY
HUNTER!

THE MAN WITH THOUSAND
FACES! SO WHAT IS YOUR TRUE
NAME WHEN YOU CHANGE IT SO
OFTEN?

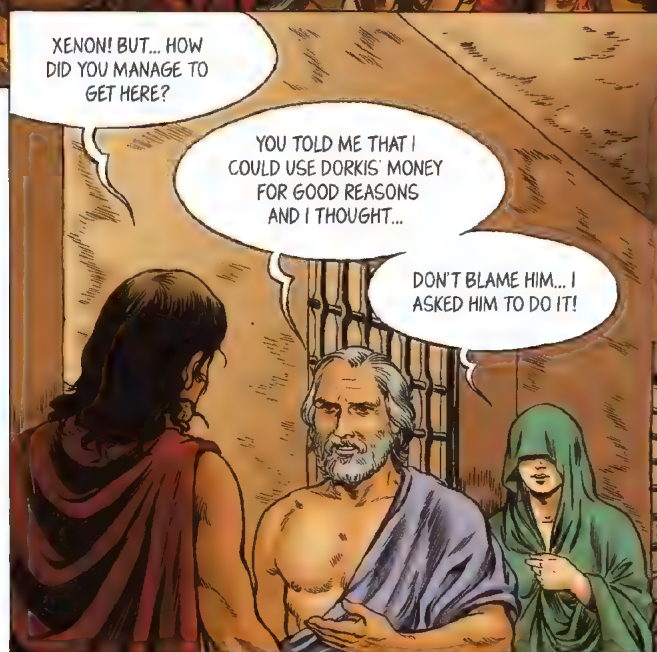
MY NAME IS MENELAUS AND WE
SHARE A SECRET. I KNOW THAT
AGESILAUS IS LIKE NO OTHER MAN...

I'M WARNING YOU, STAY AWAY
FROM... HIM. IF HE HESITATES TO KILL
YOU, KNOW THAT I WILL NOT DEPRIVE
MYSELF OF THIS PLEASURE.



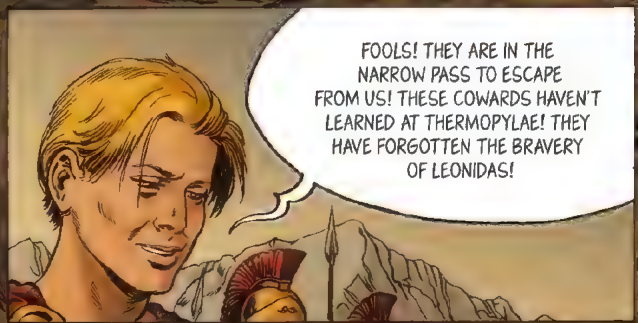
WORD "TREASON" DOES NOT BELONG IN THE VOCABULARY OF THE
BOUNTY HUNTERS.







LET THE MEN ENGAGE IN THE NARROW PASS. THEY WILL BE SAFE FROM THE RAIN OF ARROWS!



FOOLS! THEY ARE IN THE NARROW PASS TO ESCAPE FROM US! THESE COWARDS HAVEN'T LEARNED AT THERMOPYLAE! THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN THE BRAVERY OF LEONIDAS!




IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE AGESILAUS IS...



THAT DEMON DIDN'T LIE. AGAINST THE MACEDONIANS, THE FIGHT WILL BECOME TOO UNEVEN. I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO FIND OUT WHAT THAT DEMON NABIS PROMISED TO GIVE THEM.





SPEAK AGAIN... I WANT TO
HEAR YOUR VOICE!

DON'T FORGET YOUR
DEAL! FOLLOW ME!

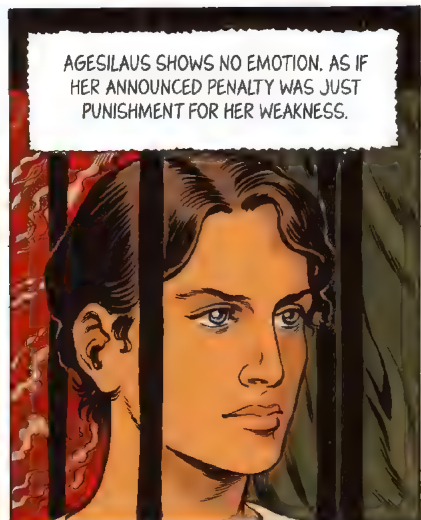
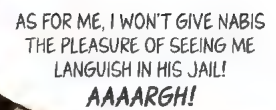
PLEASE, DON'T
INSIST.

THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE... WE
HAVE SHARED EVERYTHING. I
WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED HER!

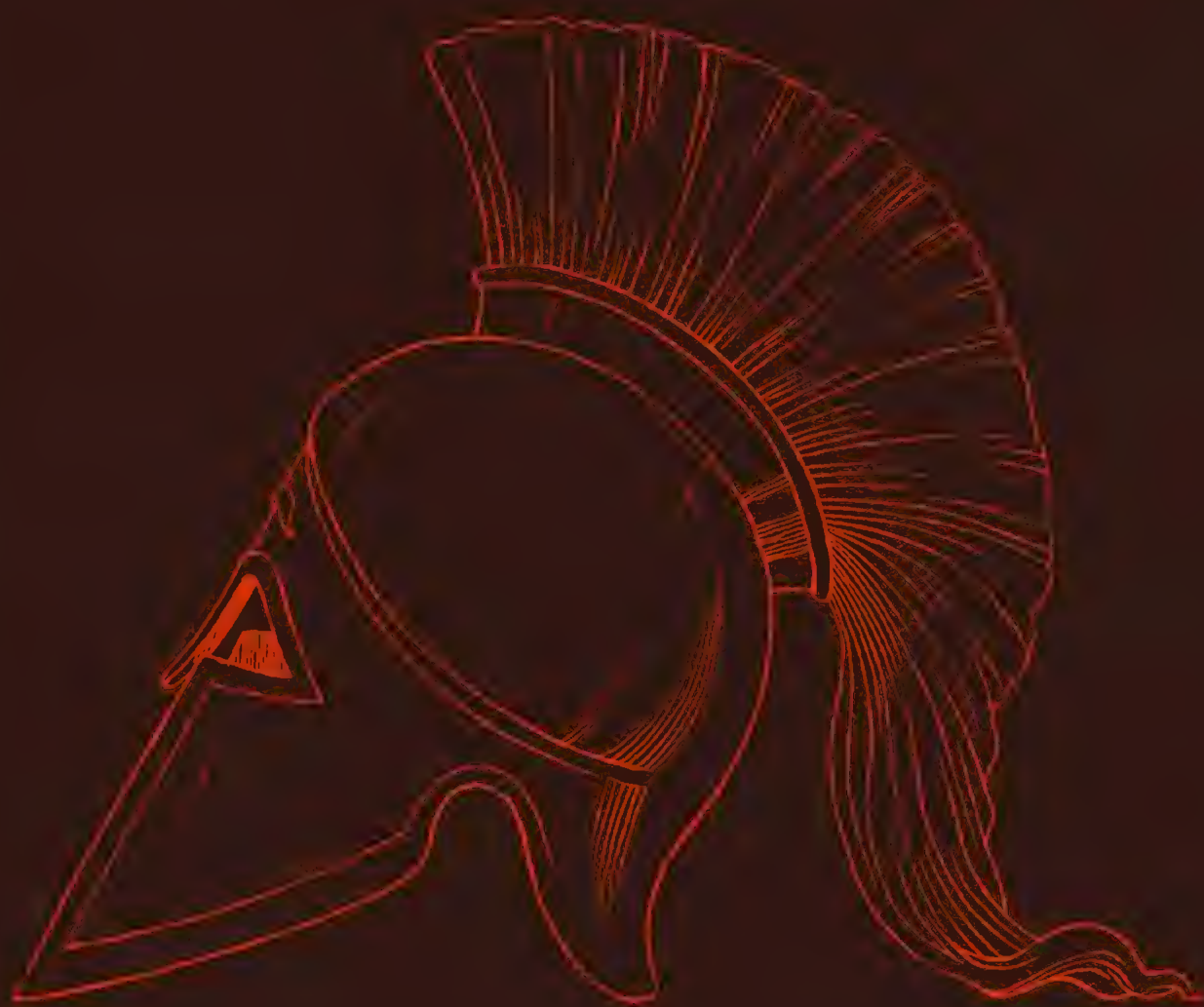
NOOOO!

BUT... HELEN! BY THE
GODS! YOU ARE ALIVE!

ALIVE? SOME WOULD
ARGUE, BUT LOOK AT ME!









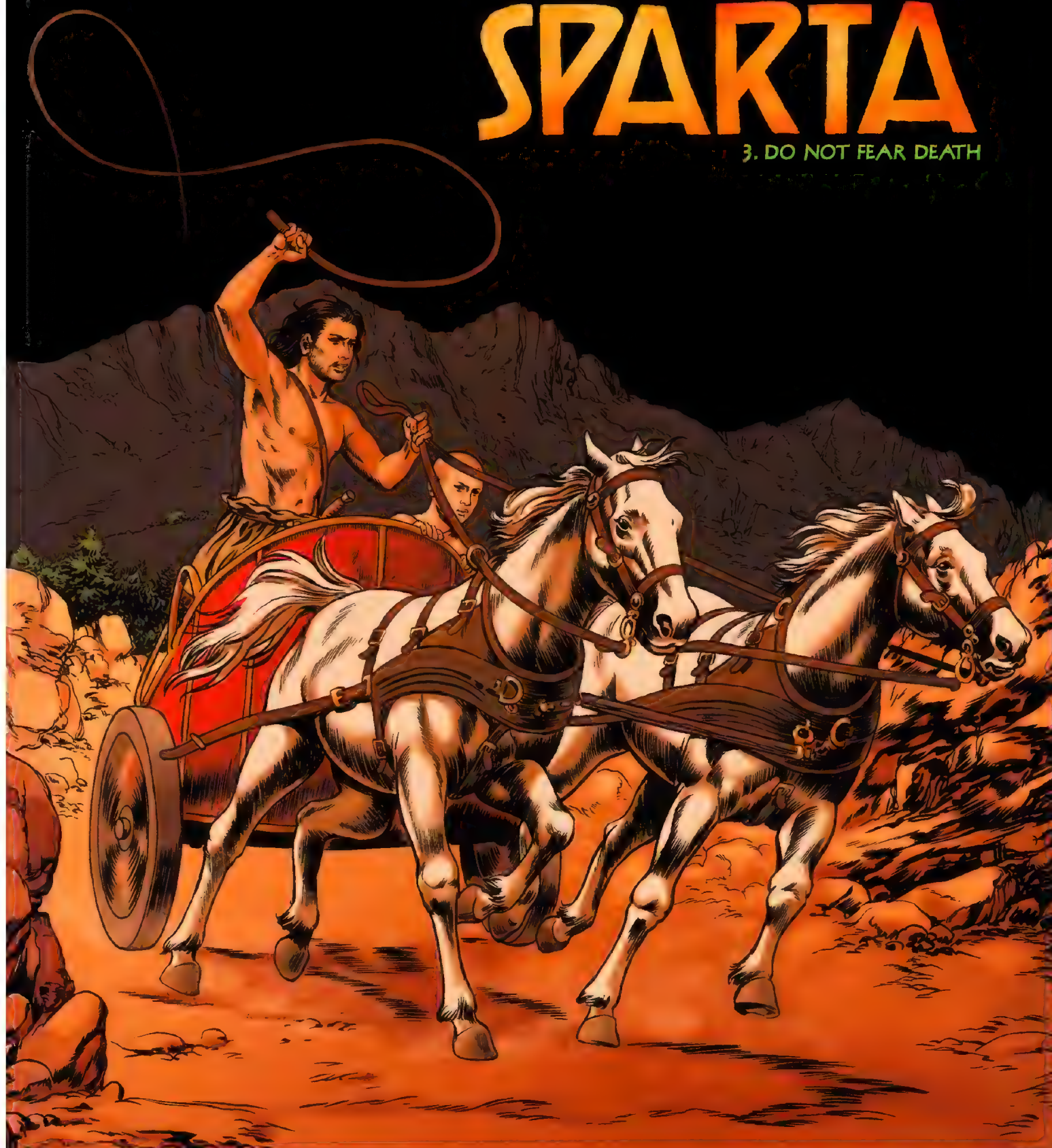
SPARTA

SIMON

WEBER

SPARTA

3. DO NOT FEAR DEATH







SPARTA

3. DO NOT FEAR DEATH



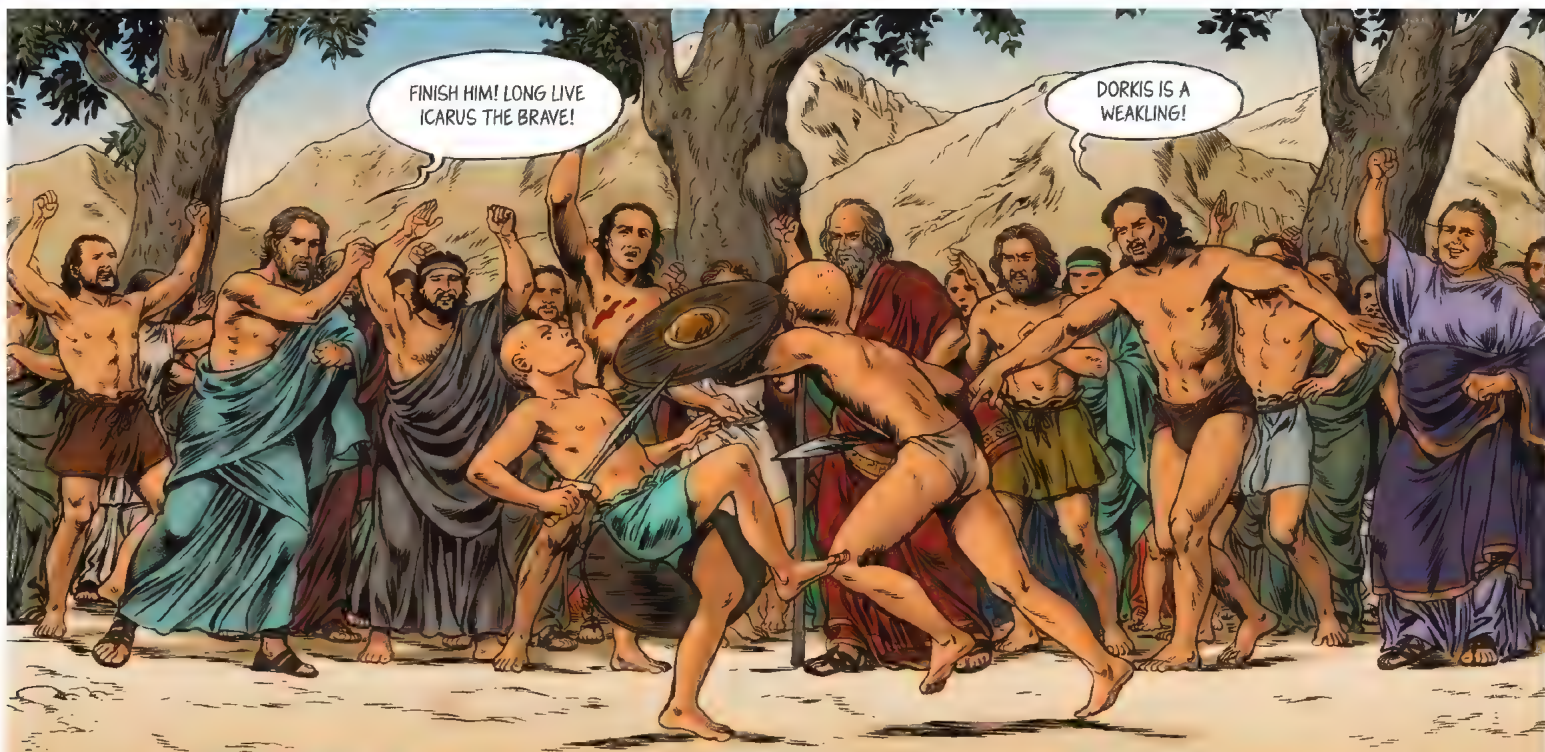
STORY - PATRICK WEBER

ART & COLOR - CRISTOPHE SIMON

OCR - LETO

CLEANING & COVERS - SABKO

TRANSLATION & TYPESETTING - SOSICH



FINISH HIM! LONG LIVE ICARUS THE BRAVE!

DORKIS IS A WEAKLING!



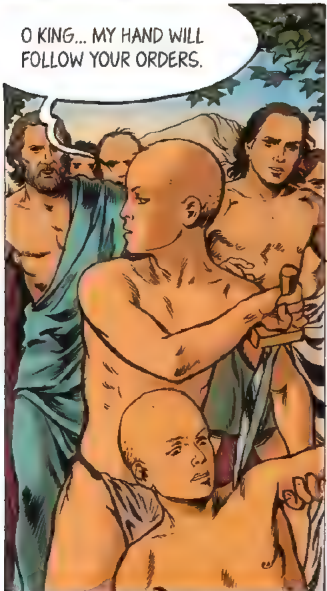
NOTHING IS WORSE IN LIFE...



...THAN TO REMAIN HELPLESS IN FRONT OF A TRAGEDY.



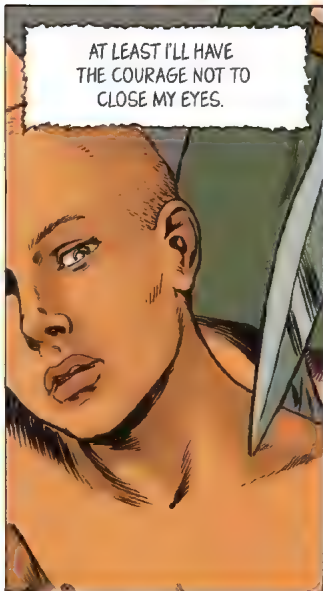
I'M WITNESSING THE DEATH OF MY DEAREST THING IN THE WORLD.



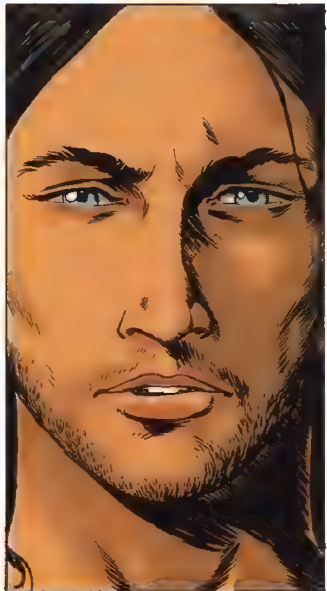
O KING... MY HAND WILL FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS.

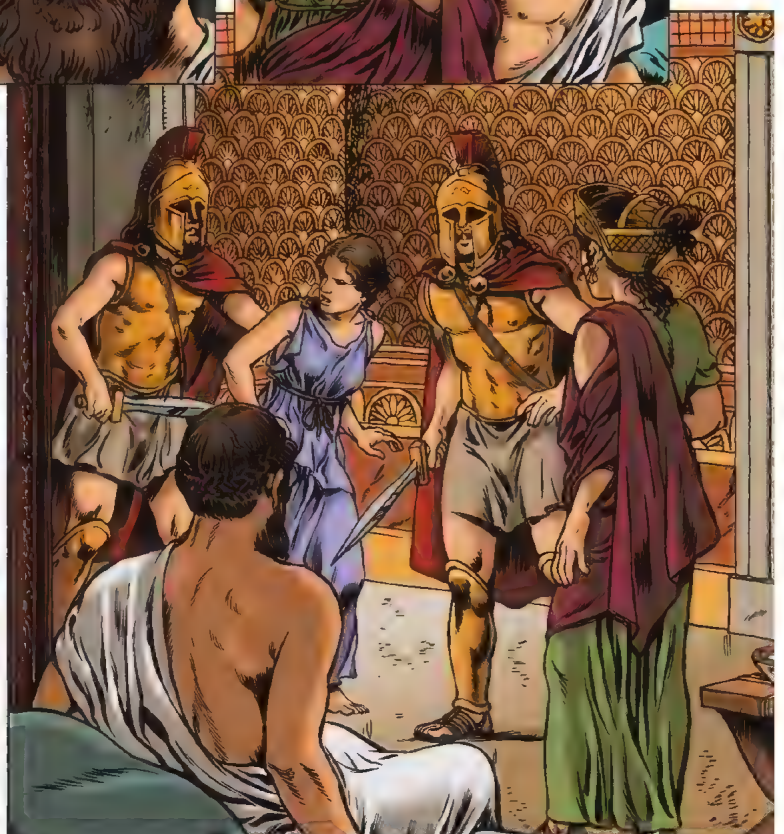
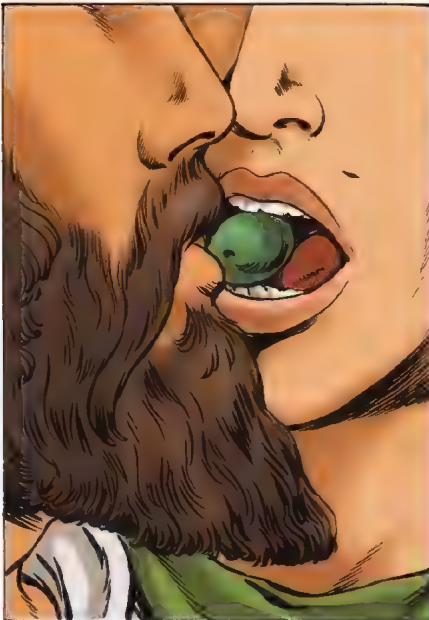


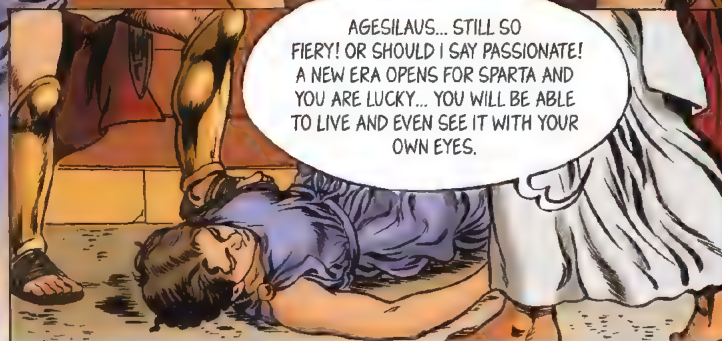
GIVE A SECOND CHANCE TO THIS IMPULSIVE BOY WHO WILL SAVOR THE TASTE OF DISHONOR.



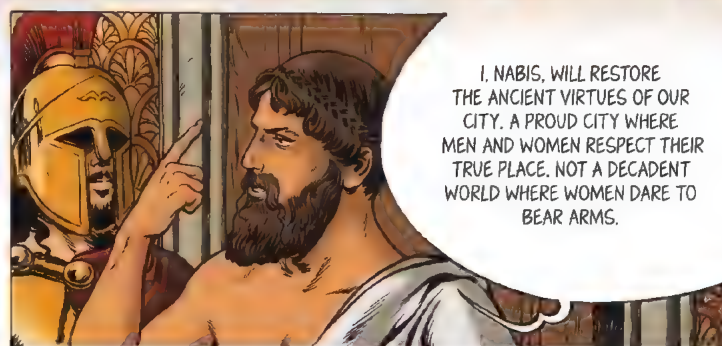
AT LEAST I'LL HAVE THE COURAGE NOT TO CLOSE MY EYES.







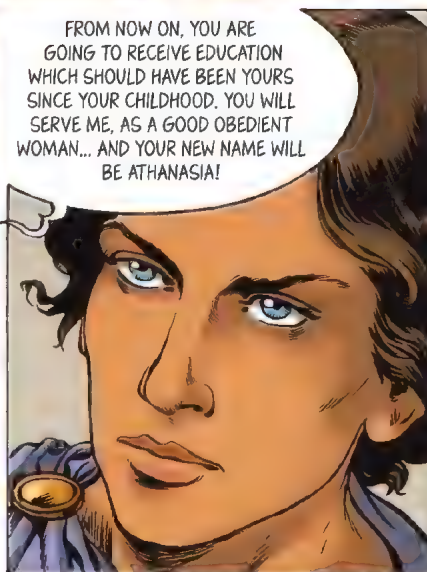
AGESILAUS... STILL SO FIERY! OR SHOULD I SAY PASSIONATE! A NEW ERA OPENS FOR SPARTA AND YOU ARE LUCKY... YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE AND EVEN SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES.



I, NABIS, WILL RESTORE THE ANCIENT VIRTUES OF OUR CITY. A PROUD CITY WHERE MEN AND WOMEN RESPECT THEIR TRUE PLACE. NOT A DECADENT WORLD WHERE WOMEN DARE TO BEAR ARMS.



PICK HER UP!

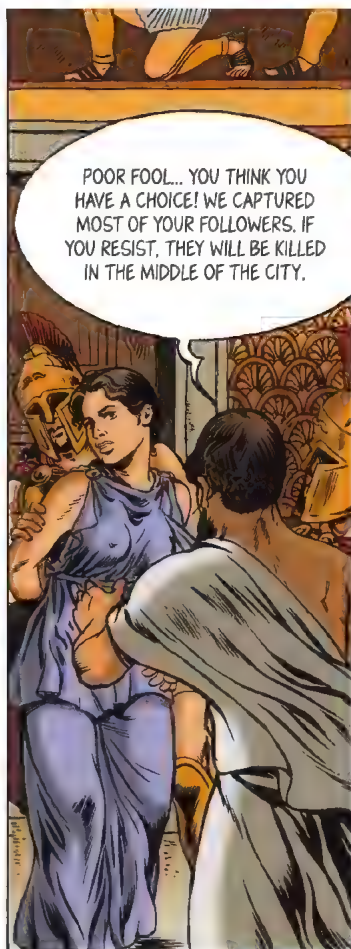


FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE GOING TO RECEIVE EDUCATION WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOURS SINCE YOUR CHILDHOOD. YOU WILL SERVE ME, AS A GOOD OBEDIENT WOMAN... AND YOUR NEW NAME WILL BE ATHANASIA!

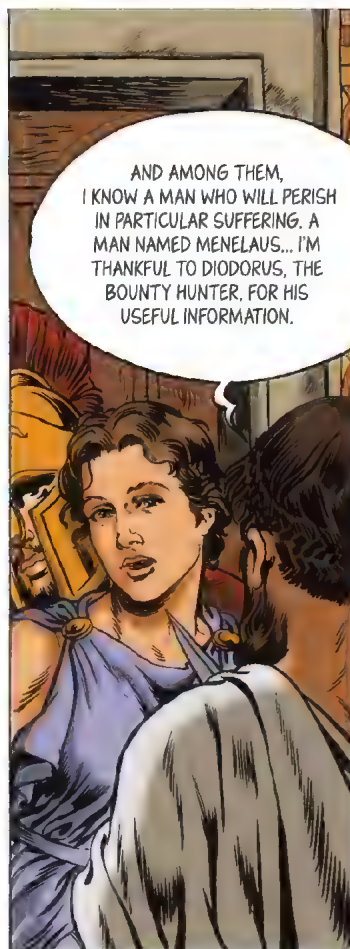




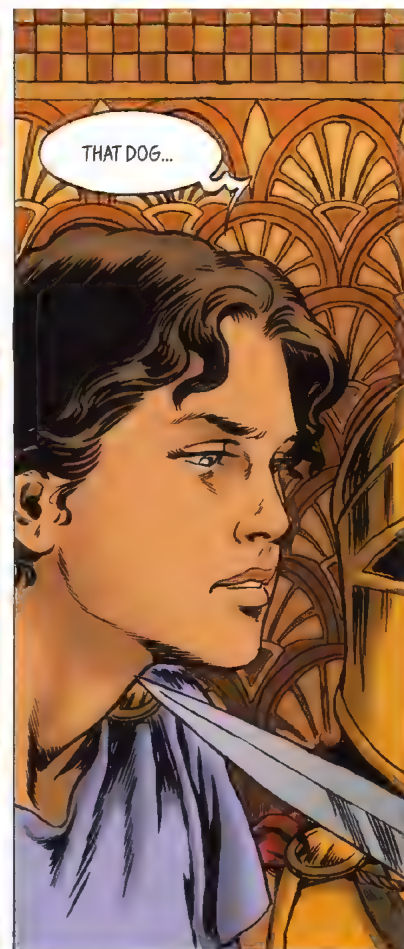
YOU THINK I'M GOING TO BECOME A TYRANT'S SERVANT? KEEP YOUR DREAMS FOR YOURSELF!



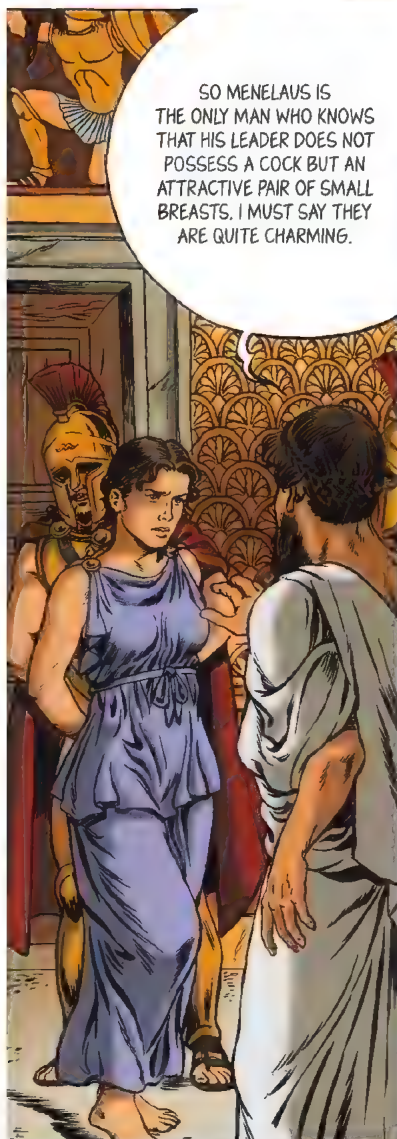
POOR FOOL... YOU THINK YOU HAVE A CHOICE! WE CAPTURED MOST OF YOUR FOLLOWERS. IF YOU RESIST, THEY WILL BE KILLED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY.



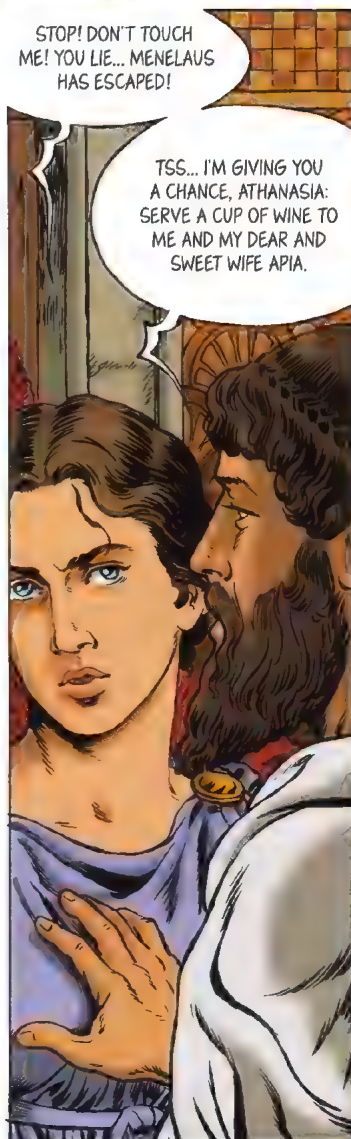
AND AMONG THEM, I KNOW A MAN WHO WILL PERISH IN PARTICULAR SUFFERING. A MAN NAMED MENELAUS... I'M THANKFUL TO DIODORUS, THE BOUNTY HUNTER, FOR HIS USEFUL INFORMATION.



THAT DOG...



SO MENELAUS IS THE ONLY MAN WHO KNOWS THAT HIS LEADER DOES NOT POSSESS A COCK BUT AN ATTRACTIVE PAIR OF SMALL BREASTS. I MUST SAY THEY ARE QUITE CHARMING.



STOP! DON'T TOUCH ME! YOU LIE... MENELAUS HAS ESCAPED!

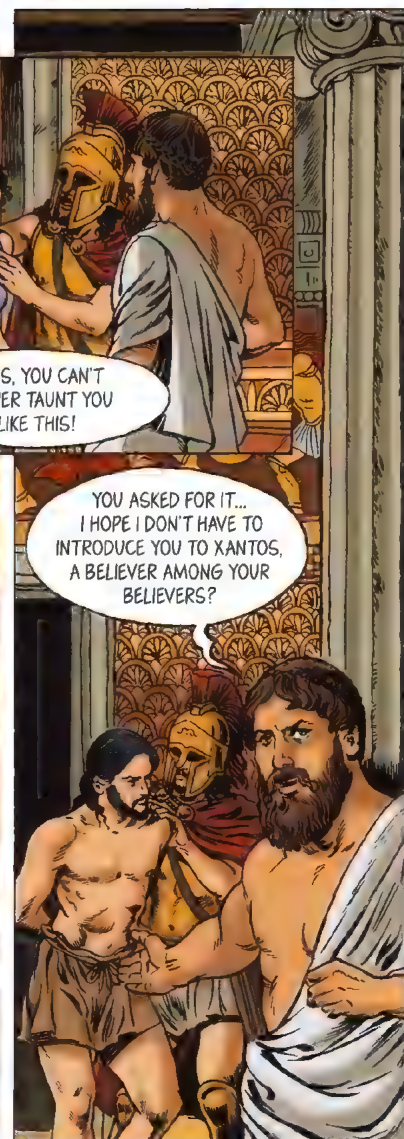
TSS... I'M GIVING YOU A CHANCE, ATHANASIA: SERVE A CUP OF WINE TO ME AND MY DEAR AND SWEET WIFE APIA.



I'D RATHER DIE!

NABIS, YOU CAN'T LET HER TAUNT YOU LIKE THIS!

WHY MUST FEMALES ALWAYS COMPLICATE THINGS?



YOU ASKED FOR IT... I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO XANTOS, A BELIEVER AMONG YOUR BELIEVERS?



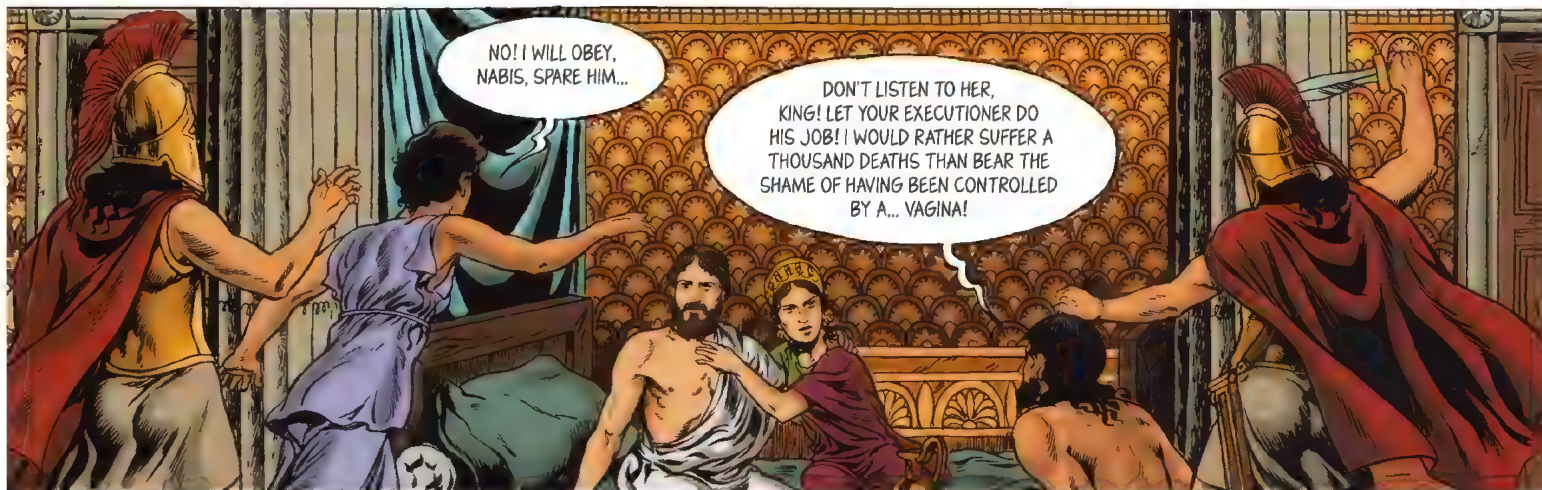
XANTOS, THIS IS AGESILAUS... OR SHOULD I SAY ATHANASIA.

BY ATHENA... YOU BETRAYED US!

NO, XANTOS! OUR STRUGGLE IS A LEGITIMATE ONE. DON'T LET YOURSELF BE BLINDED BY HATE!



POOR XANTOS, WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT THIS MUST BE FOR YOU! AND AS AGESILAUS REFUSES TO SHOW HERSELF COOPERATIVE, I WILL BE FORCED TO KILL YOU.



NO! I WILL OBEY, NABIS, SPARE HIM...

DON'T LISTEN TO HER, KING! LET YOUR EXECUTIONER DO HIS JOB! I WOULD RATHER SUFFER A THOUSAND DEATHS THAN BEAR THE SHAME OF HAVING BEEN CONTROLLED BY A... VAGINA!



YOU WILL NOTICE MY GOODWILL... I COULD HAVE STARTED WITH YOUR LOVER MENELAUS, BUT I CONTENTED MYSELF WITH A SIMPLE WARRIOR.



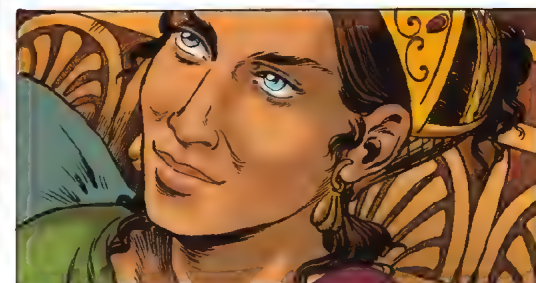
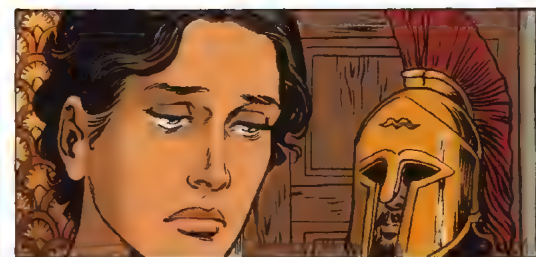
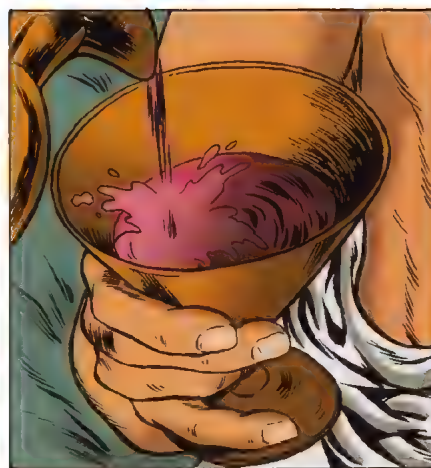
MENELAUS...

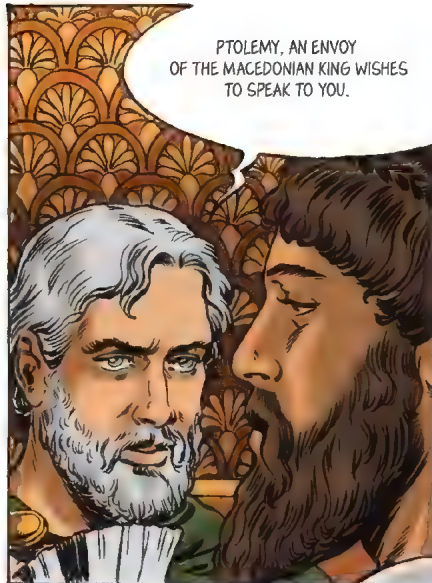


THINK OF ALL YOUR FOLLOWERS WHO WILL PREFER TO DIE RATHER THAN LIVE IN SHAME OF KNOWING YOUR SECRET.



NOW THAT THESE SMALL DETAILS ARE SETTLED, SERVE US OUR WINE, ATHANASIA.





PTOLEMY, AN ENVOY
OF THE MACEDONIAN KING WISHES
TO SPEAK TO YOU.



OUR DEAR MACEDONIAN
ALLIES! WHAT EXCELLENT
NEWS... LET'S ONLY HOPE THEY'RE
NOT HERE TO CLAIM THEIR
SHARE. BRING HIM IN.



OR RATHER NOT, NOT HERE. BLOOD OF
THE SPARTANS DOES NOT WASH OFF
LIKE A CHEAP ATHENIAN WINE. BRING
HIM TO MY OFFICE.



PTOLEMY OF MACEDONIA, WHAT A
PLEASURE TO RECEIVE YOU IN MY
PALACE! WE MUST CELEBRATE OUR
VICTORY WITHOUT DELAY.



TO THE BRAVERY OF OUR PEOPLE
AND THEIR KINGS!

THANK YOU!



EXCELLENT WINE OF
LACEDAEMON... TELL ME HOW
IT TASTES!

ITS REPUTATION IS NOT
USURPED. DIONYSUS
WATCHES OVER IT!



MY MASTER, PHILLIP V,
THE GLORIOUS KING OF MACEDONIA, ASKED
ME TO DELIVER YOU A MESSAGE OF THE UTMOST
IMPORTANCE. HE WANTS TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES
THAT BIND OUR TWO NATIONS AND, IN THIS REGARDS,
HE SENDS ME TO OFFER YOU A DEAL.



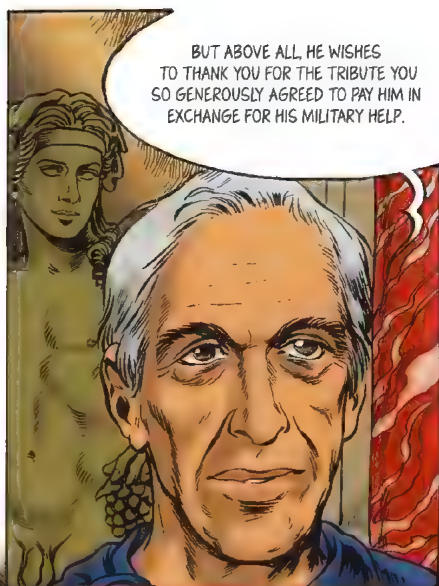
A DEAL?

HE'S THINKING ABOUT
GRANTING YOU ARGOS, ONE OF
THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS CITIES
OF PELOPONNESE.

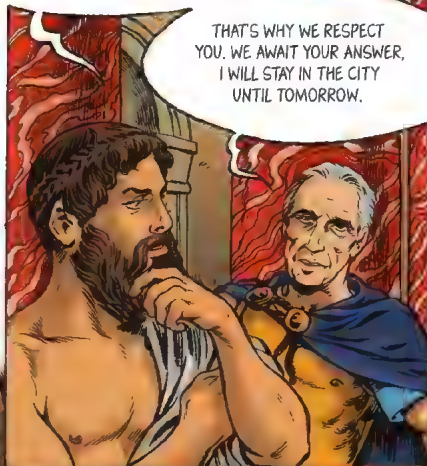


ARGOS... BUT WHY?

THE CITY IS FAR FROM
MACEDONIA. MY KING DOES NOT WANT TO
KEEP THE TROOPS SO FAR AWAY FROM
OUR LAND.



BUT ABOVE ALL, HE WISHES TO THANK YOU FOR THE TRIBUTE YOU SO GENEROUSLY AGREED TO PAY HIM IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS MILITARY HELP.



YES, YES, OF COURSE... NABIS' WORD IS HIS BOND.

THAT'S WHY WE RESPECT YOU. WE AWAIT YOUR ANSWER, I WILL STAY IN THE CITY UNTIL TOMORROW.



REST ASSURED, PTOLEMY, YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY INFORMED. ON MY BEHALF, SPARTA THANKS YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR VISIT.



ARGOS, SPARTA... NABIS. YOUR GLORY IS INFINITE. AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. ALL THE GODS OF OLYMPUS ARE BY YOUR SIDE!



ALEXANDROS!



PREPARE THE LOCHOS*, OUR BEST MEN, AND SET OUT.



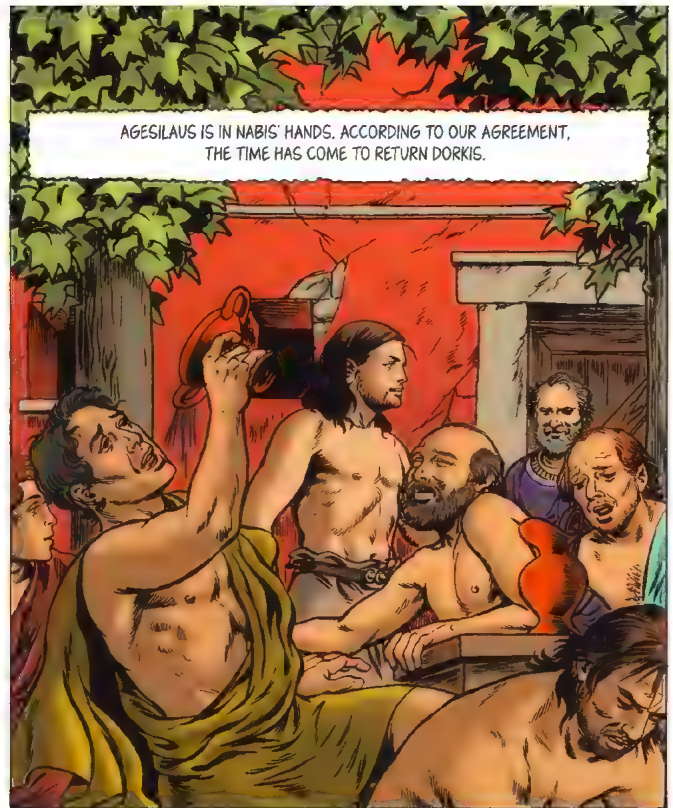
AM I LEAVING SPARTA?

YOU WILL BECOME MY GOVERNOR IN ARGOS.

*BATTALION.



I'M NOT PROUD OF MYSELF,
BUT I'VE DONE MY PART OF THE DEAL.



AGESILAUS IS IN NABIS' HANDS. ACCORDING TO OUR AGREEMENT,
THE TIME HAS COME TO RETURN DORKIS.



BY ARRIVING BEFORE NABIS' PALACE, A TERRIBLE FEELING TAKES HOLD OF ME:
I BELIEVE THIS IS SHAME.



SHAME FOR HAVING BEEN
SO NAÏVE.

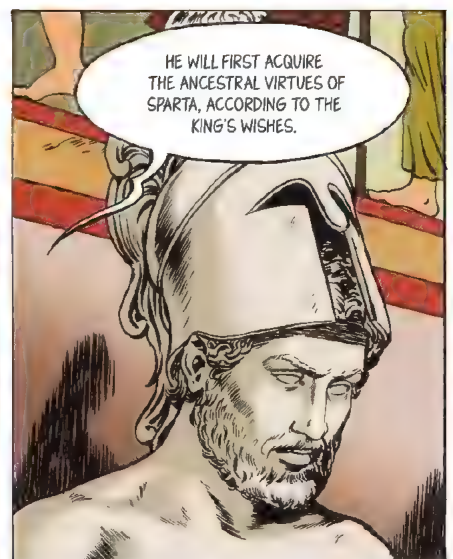


FEAR NOT, DIDORUS,
NABIS DID NOT FORGET
YOUR DEAL. THE KING IS A
MAN OF HIS WORD.

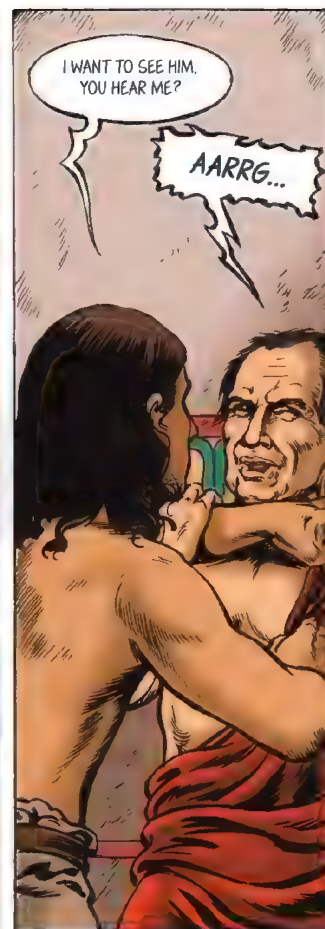
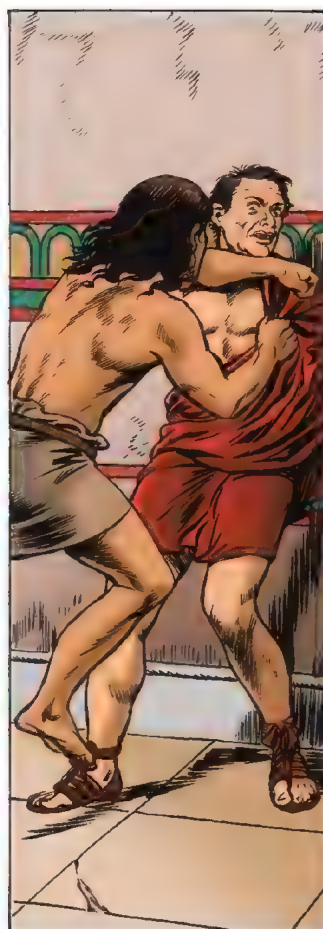
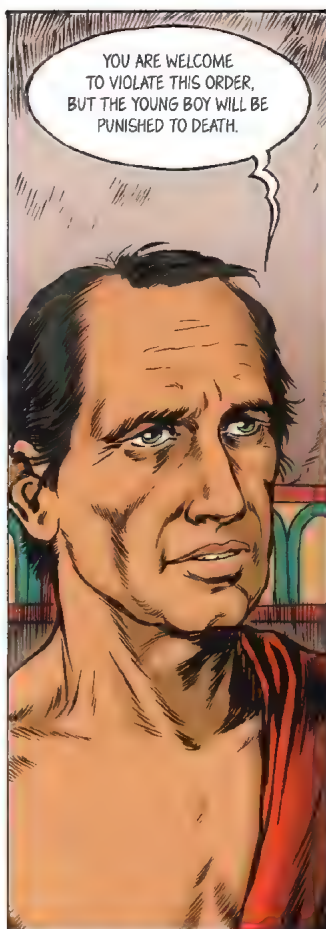
THEN I WON'T LEAVE
THE PALACE WITH
DORKIS.

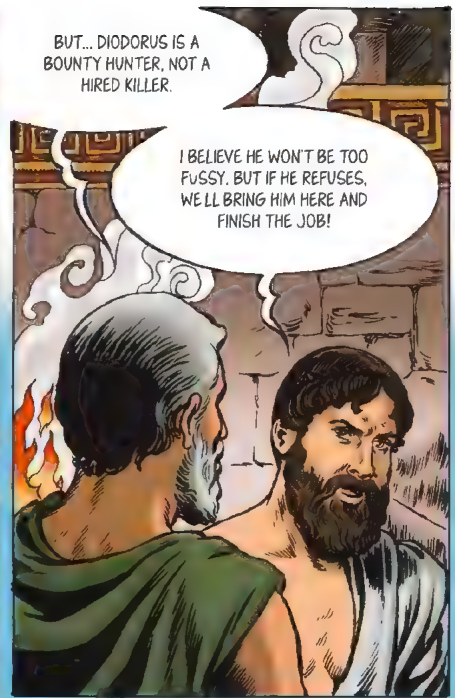
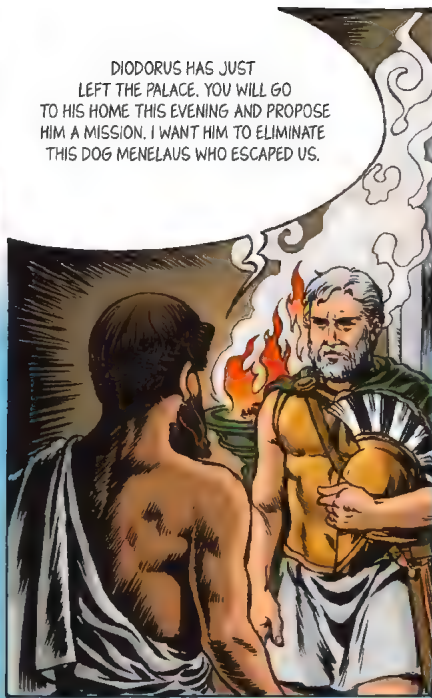
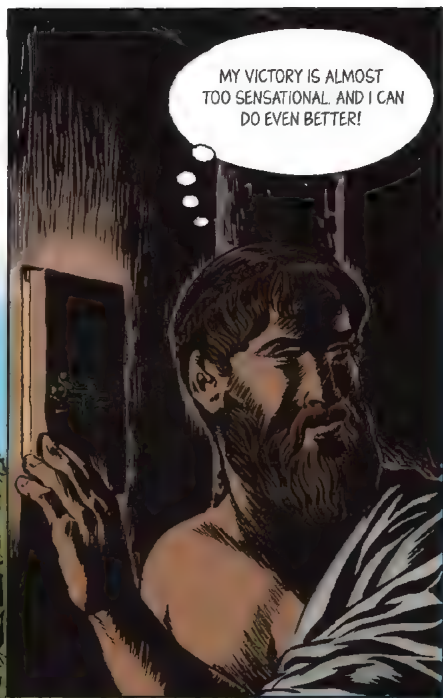


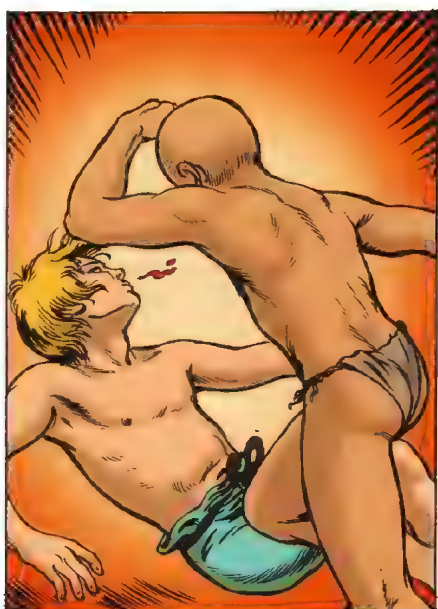
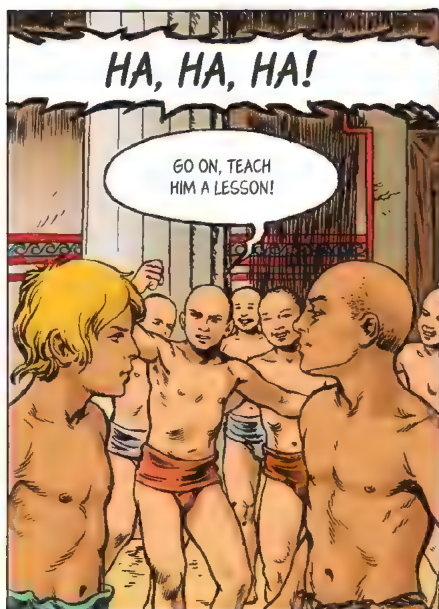
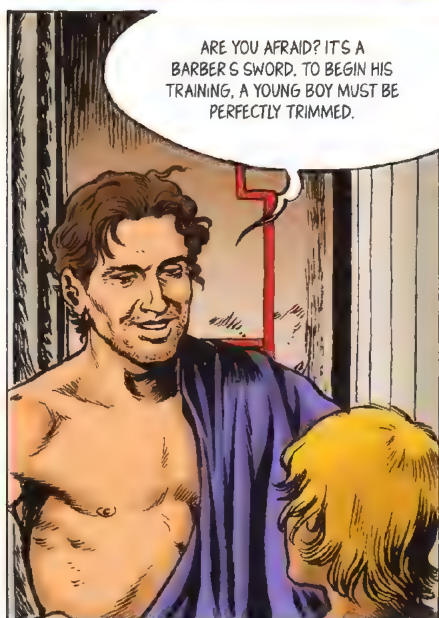
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT DON'T WORRY. DORKIS IS BEING
WELL TAKEN CARE OF AND NABIS IS
PREPARING A GREAT CEREMONY TO REVEAL
HIS PRESTIGIOUS ANCESTRY TO ALL PEOPLE
OF SPARTA. IT WILL BE THE DAY OF NABIS'
SUCCESSOR.

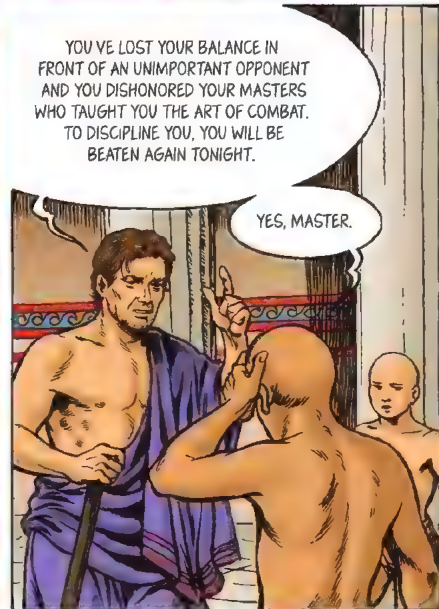
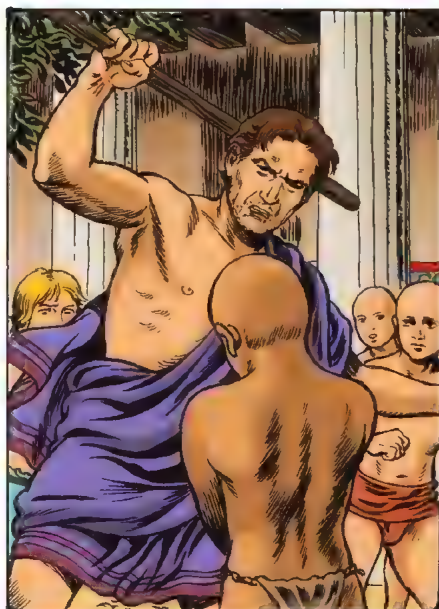
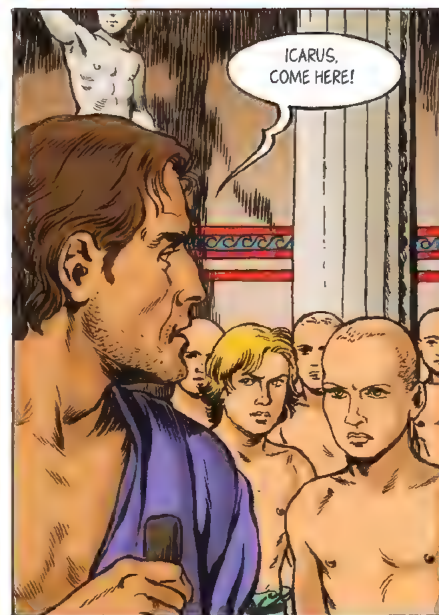
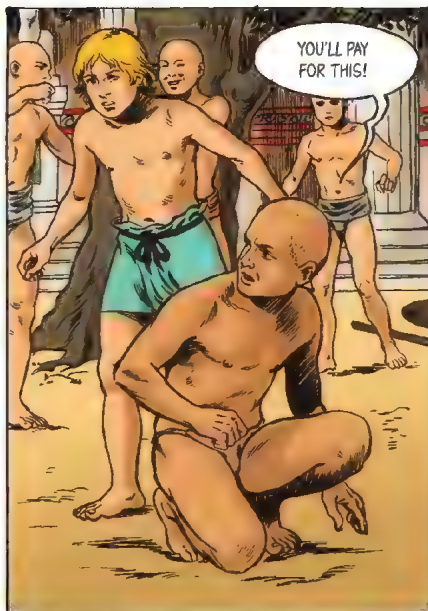


HE WILL FIRST ACQUIRE
THE ANCESTRAL VIRTUES OF
SPARTA, ACCORDING TO THE
KING'S WISHES.











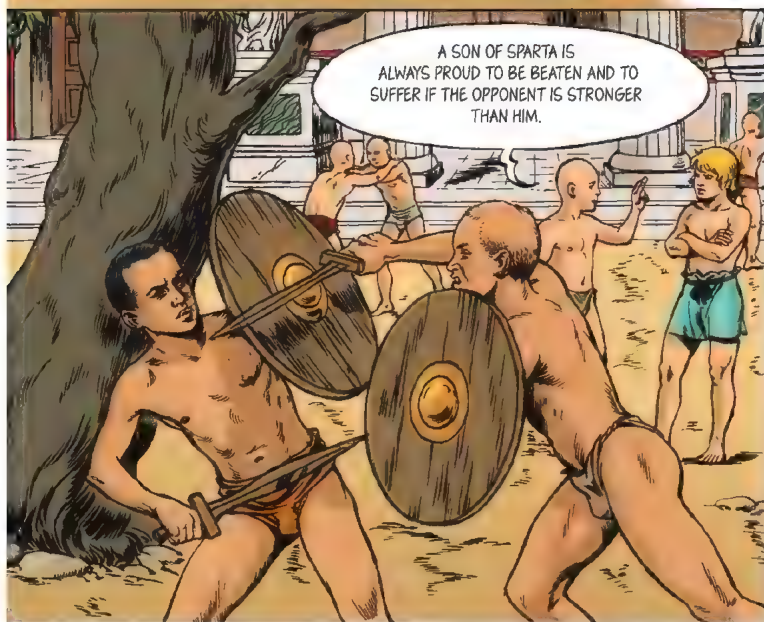
ICARUS, I'M SORRY.
I'M THE ONE WHO DESERVES A
BEATING.

WHY DO YOU
CARE?

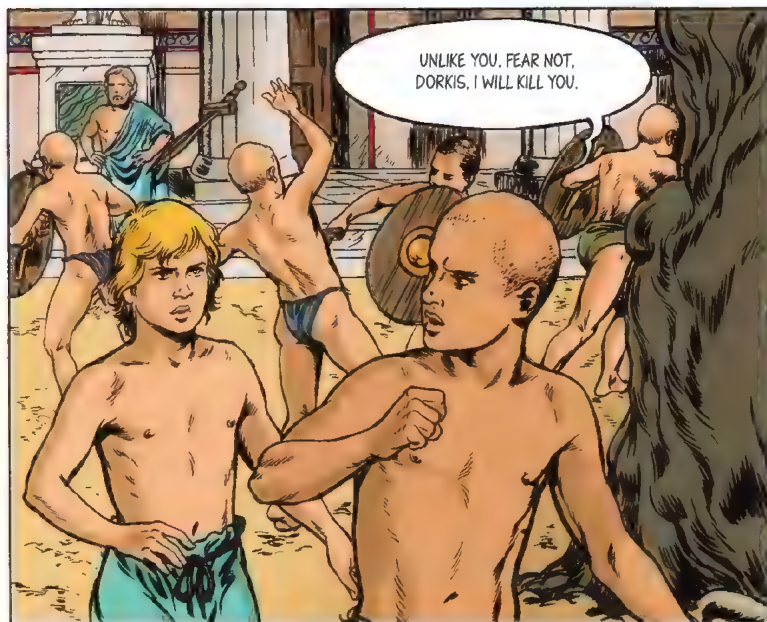


I ONLY WANTED TO SHOW
MY SYMPATHY.

A SPARTAN NEVER
BEGGS FOR MERCY.



A SON OF SPARTA IS
ALWAYS PROUD TO BE BEATEN AND TO
SUFFER IF THE OPPONENT IS STRONGER
THAN HIM.

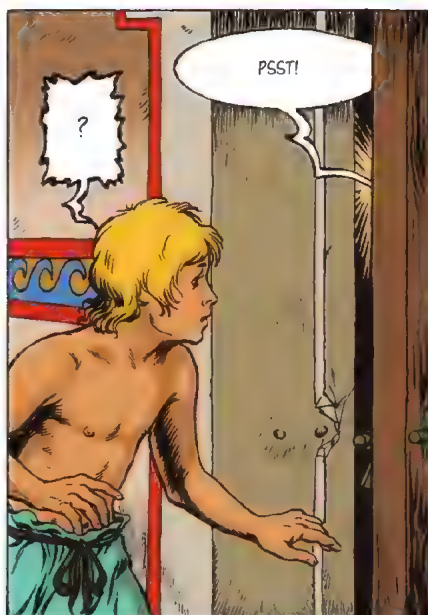
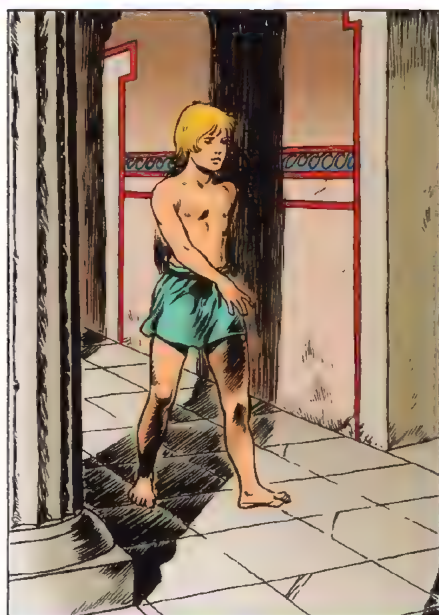


UNLIKE YOU, FEAR NOT,
DORKIS, I WILL KILL YOU.



YOU'RE LUCKY. YOU'VE
HARDLY ARRIVED AND YOU ALREADY GOT
ACQUAINTED WITH MERCILESS ICARUS.

I'M NOT
AFRAID OF HIM!



SURE GAVE YOU
A BEATING!

OW... WHAT ARE YOU
DOING? YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED
TO... MY HAIR?! ALCIBIADES
WARNED ME...

THE SAME THING
HAPPENED TO ME AND
I WAS HAPPY TO MEET
FRIENDS!

I'M SORRY,
I BEHAVED LIKE AN
IDIOT.

KEEP QUIET. IT'S NOT
IMPORTANT. DRINK THIS... FIRST
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND WHERE
YOU ARE! LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT
THE AGOGES, THE PRIDE
OF SPARTA.

AT THE AGE OF 7, CHILDREN OF SPARTA ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR
FAMILIES. THIS WAY, THEY WON'T KNOW COMFORT.

UNTIL TWENTY YEARS OLD, WE ARE PLACED UNDER THE PAIDONOMUS'
AUTHORITY. HE HAS POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH OVER US.

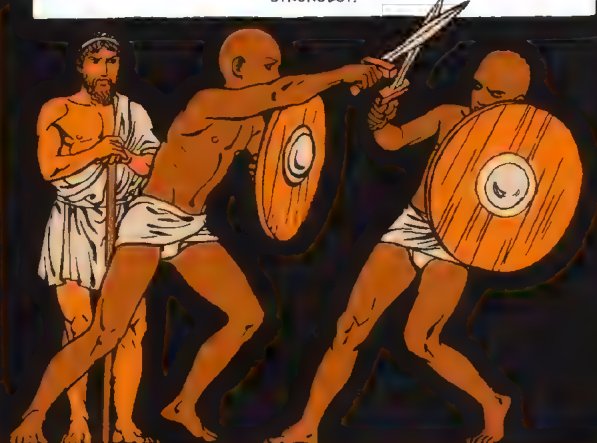
WE LEARN HOW TO READ AND WRITE, BUT NOT TOO MUCH. KNOWLEDGE
CORRUPTS STRENGTH.

OUR TEACHERS ALSO TEACH US MARCHING SONGS
THAT ENCOURAGE HEARTS.

WE PRACTICE ATHLETICS UNTIL EXHAUSTION.



AS WELL AS ARMS TRAINING. WE MUST LEARN TO HIT FIRST AND STRONGEST.



WE MUST OBEY THE ORDERS OF OUR SUPERIORS. WE FORGET WHO WE ARE AND WE SERVE THE CITY. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING.



WE ARE PROUD OF OUR SHAVED HEADS AND WE WALK BARE FOOT, EVEN IN SNOW.

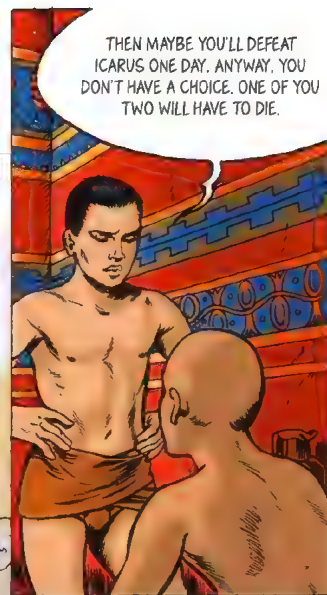


WE ARE POORLY FEED, SO WE HAVE TO STEAL FOOD TO SURVIVE.



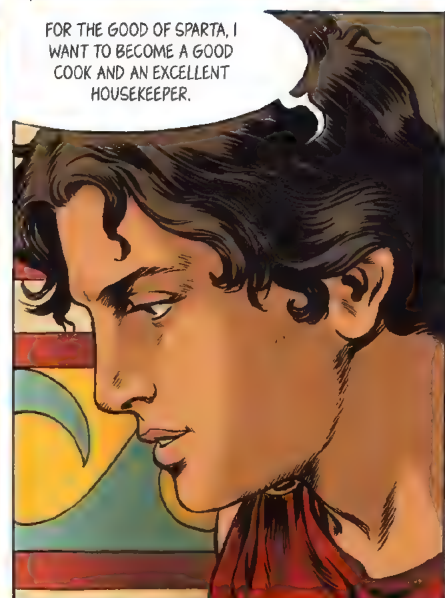
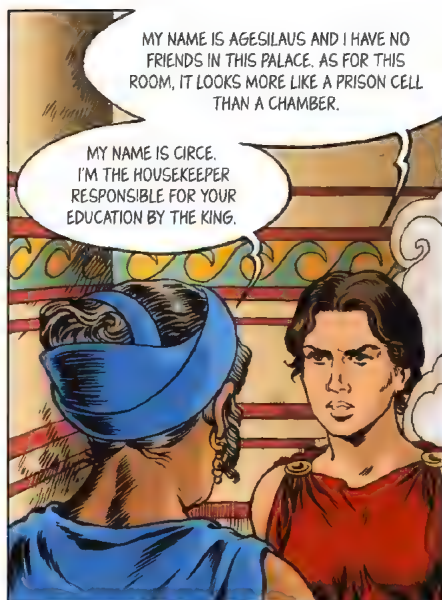
WE SLEEP ON BEDS MADE OUT OF REEDS FROM THE EUROTAS, WHICH WE CUT OURSELVES.



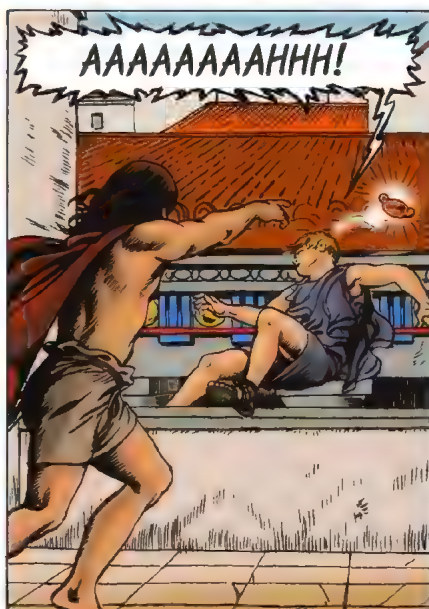


MEANWHILE, NABIS' PALACE.











SHUT UP, I...

YOU KNOW THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU, AND I KNOW THAT YOU HATE ME. WE ARE EVEN. BUT IF THERE'S SOME SENSE OF HONOR LEFT IN YOU... I...

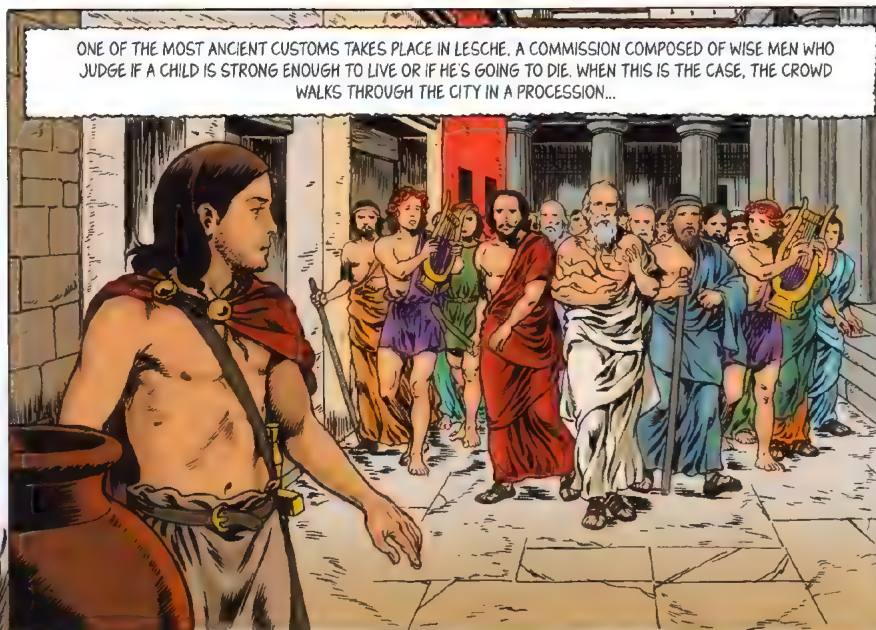


MENELAUS, SAVE YOUR STRENGTH!

I'M ASKING YOU TO FREE AGESILAUS. YOU OWE HIM THIS... ENOUGH BETRAYALS, FINALLY BRING HONOR TO YOUR COUNTRY. AAAAAAH!



I'M SORRY, MY FRIEND... THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT MOMENT TO BLAME ME FOR A MURDER!



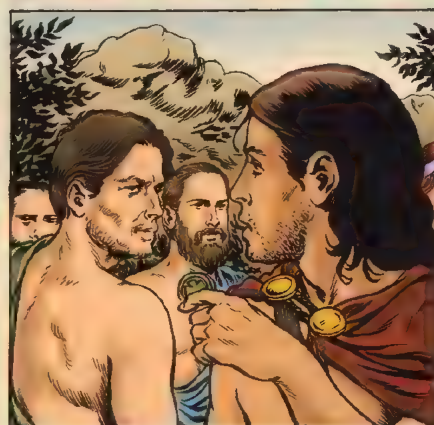
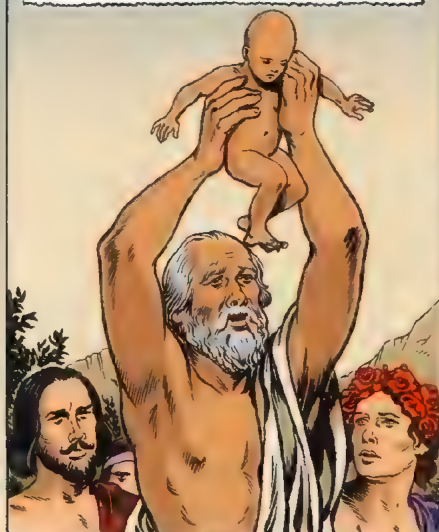
ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT CUSTOMS TAKES PLACE IN LESCHE. A COMMISSION COMPOSED OF WISE MEN WHO JUDGE IF A CHILD IS STRONG ENOUGH TO LIVE OR IF HE'S GOING TO DIE. WHEN THIS IS THE CASE, THE CROWD WALKS THROUGH THE CITY IN A PROCESSION...



THE PROCESSION WALKS IN MUSIC TOWARDS THE APOTHETES, THE CHASM OF DEATH OF THE WEAK LOCATED AT THE FOOT OF TAYGETOS.

*LESCHÉ - COVERED PLACE.

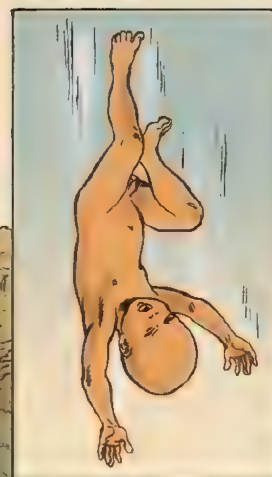
THE POOR CHILD IS UNFORTUNATE. HE'S NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO HAVE THE HONOR OF BECOMING A SPARTAN



THE ENTIRE EDUCATION PLACED IN THE SERVICE OF A CITY THAT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT EVERYTHING?

NABIS IS INDEED THE MASTER OF SPARTA! HE MANAGED TO RESTORE THE OLD CUSTOMS, EVEN THE MOST VIOLENT.

PARENTS OF SPARTA WILL TREMBLE AGAIN WHEN A CHILD TOO THIN OR TOO WEAK IS BORN TO THEM.



"...AND THE GAMES WILL END WITH A BATTLE THAT WILL BRING INTO CONFLICT TWO YOUNG BOYS TRAINED BY ALCIBIADES. THE WINNER, WHO WILL SHOW HIMSELF WORTHY OF OUR CITY, WILL BE HONORED, AND THE OTHER WILL DIE!"



THAT'S VERY NICE! I'M HAPPY! DURING THE CEREMONIES THAT CELEBRATE MY VICTORY, I WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO MAKE A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF SPARTA.

"THE BATTLE WILL BE HELD ON THE PLATANISTAS IN ORDER TO BE SEEN BY A CROWD OF PEOPLE!"



THEY WON'T MISS ANYTHING, NEITHER THE FIGHT...



...NOR THE KILLING.



KING, YOUR GUEST IS HERE.

ALREADY? THAT WAS QUICK! THIS DAY HAS A LOT OF REASONS FOR CELEBRATIONS!



HERE'S OUR FAMOUS NESTOR!

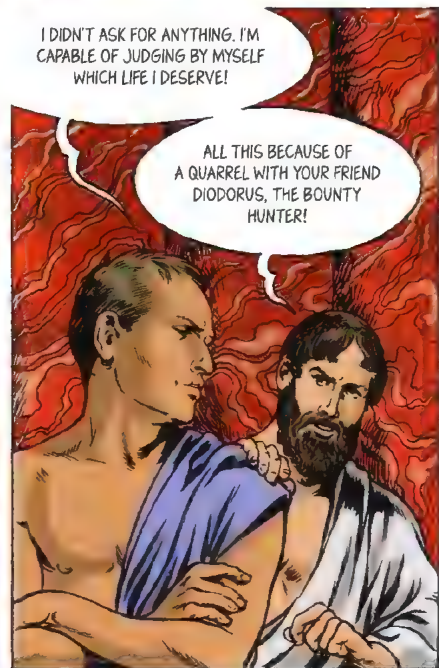


GUARDS, RELEASE HIM... HE COMES AS A FRIEND.



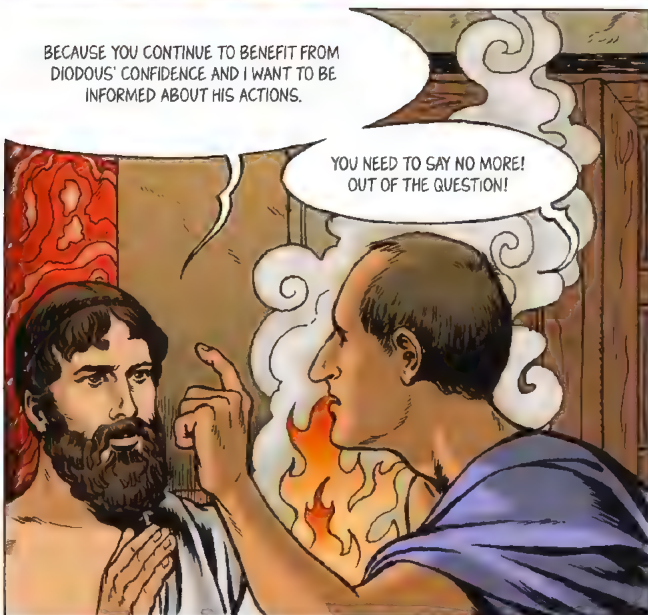
A FRIEND? YOUR MEN SNATCHED ME FROM MY FIELD AND FORCED ME TO SPARTA!

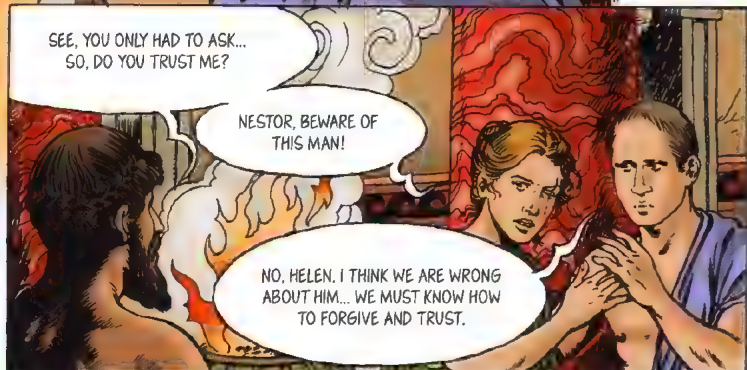
TSS... A MAN LIKE YOU DESERVES MUCH BETTER THAN A FIELD! YOUR PLACE IS IN OUR CITY. THE GREAT SPARTA THAT HAS FINALLY FOUND ITS PRIDE!



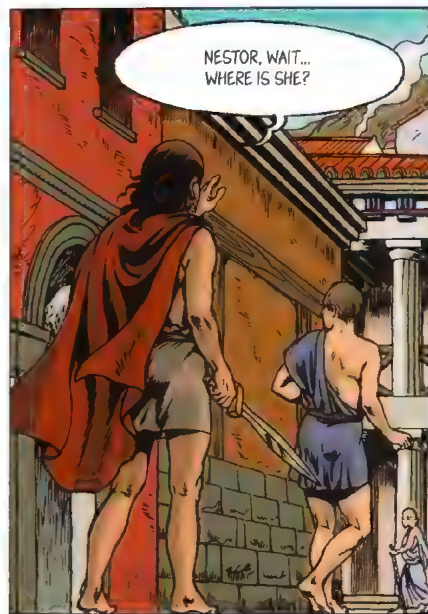
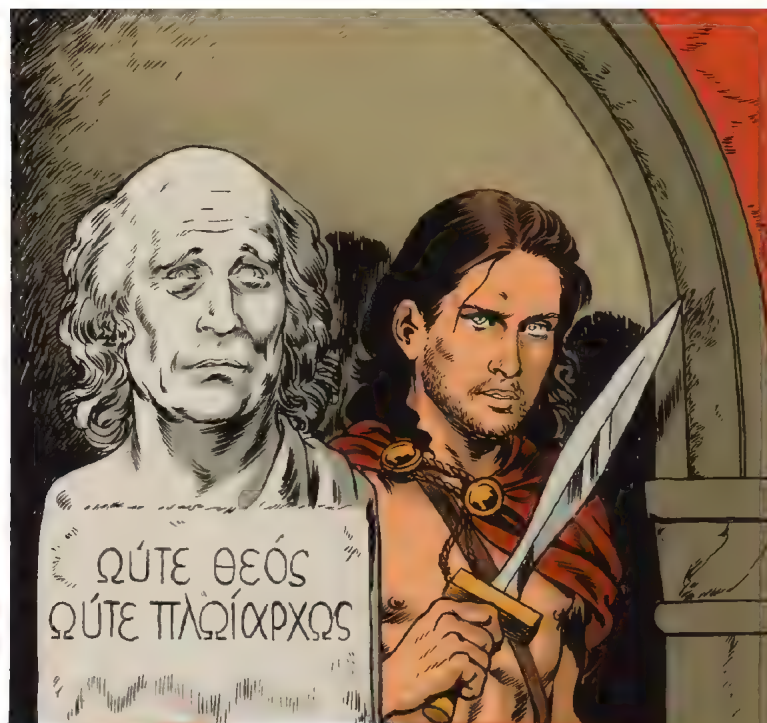
I DIDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING. I'M CAPABLE OF JUDGING BY MYSELF WHICH LIFE I DESERVE!

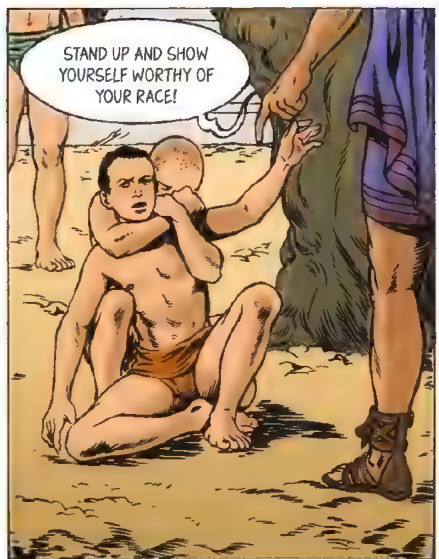
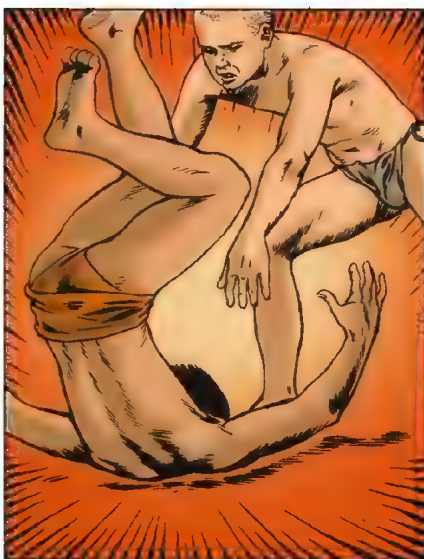
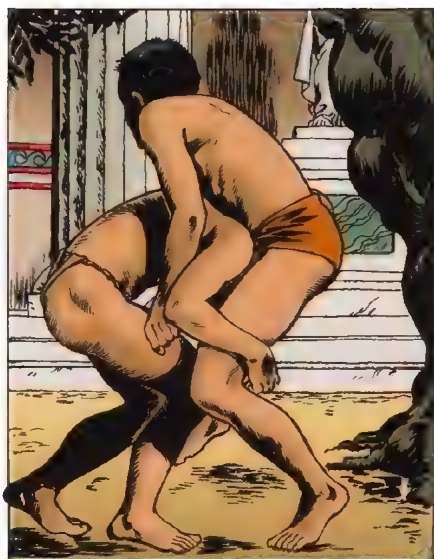
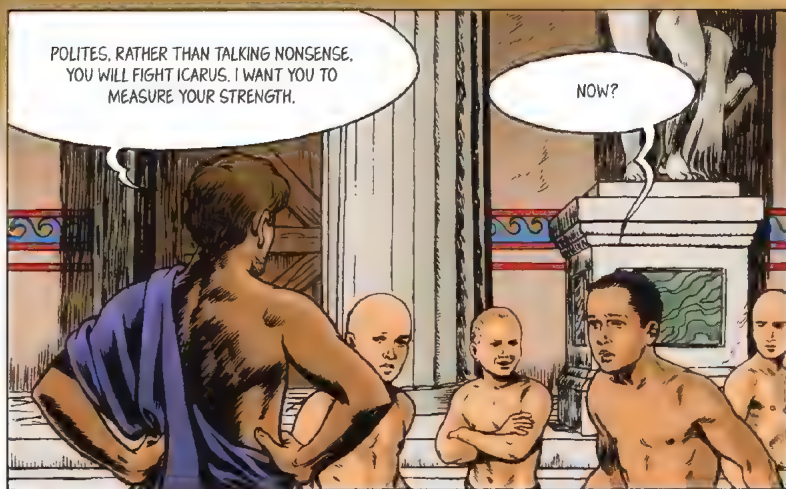
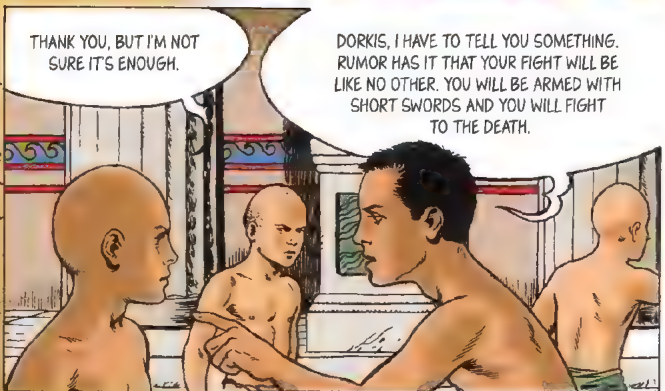
ALL THIS BECAUSE OF A QUARREL WITH YOUR FRIEND DIODORUS, THE BOUNTY HUNTER!

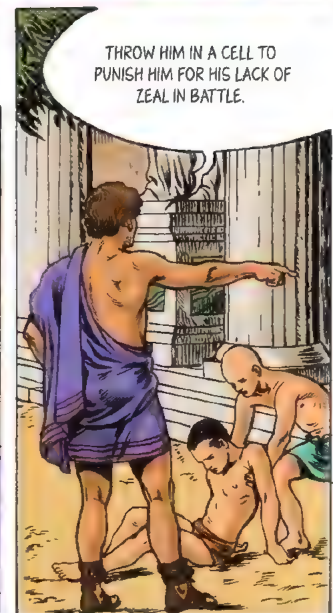
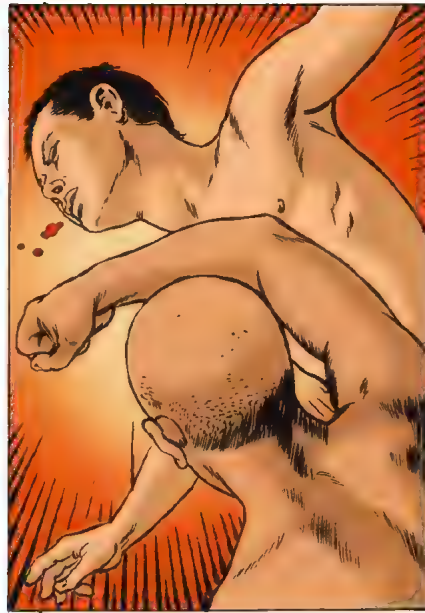




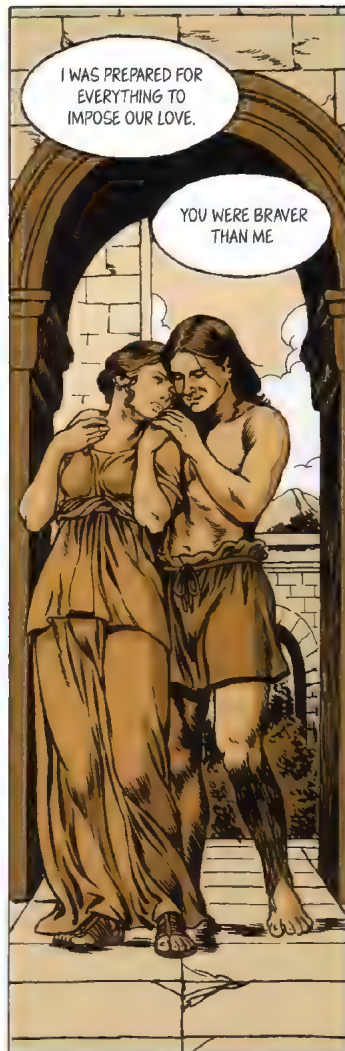
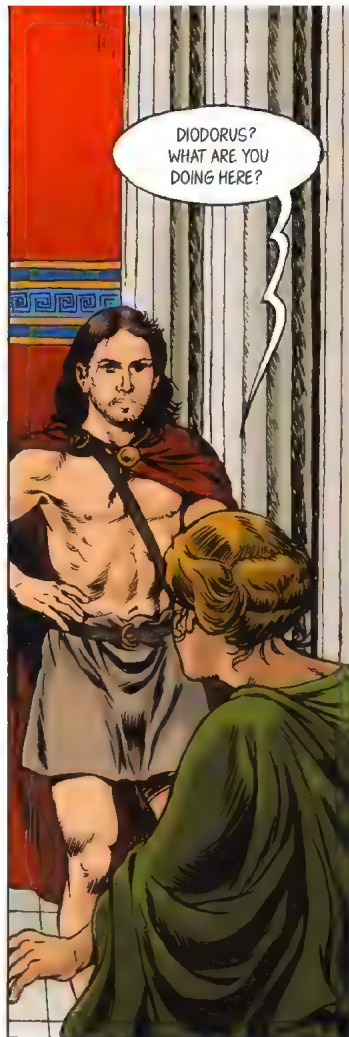






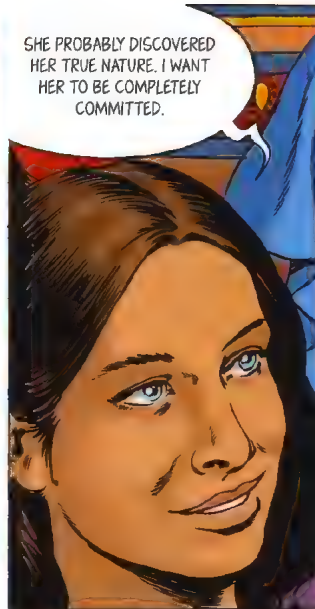








OUR PUPIL ATHANASIA IS
HARDWORKING AND
DOCILE.

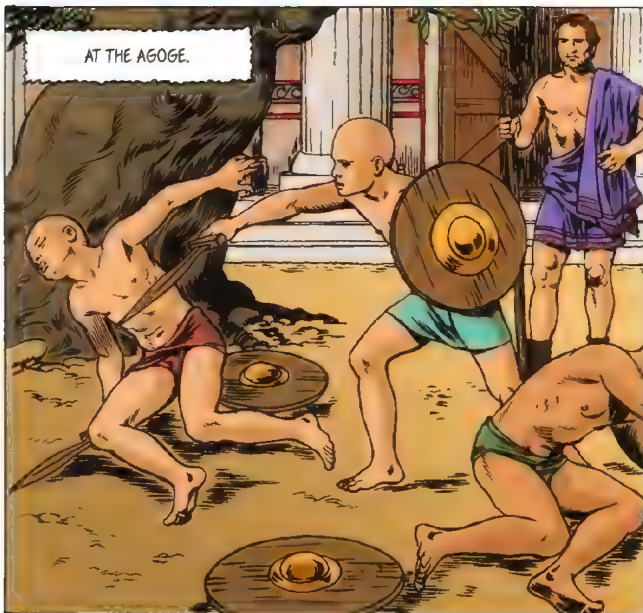


SHE PROBABLY DISCOVERED
HER TRUE NATURE. I WANT
HER TO BE COMPLETELY
COMMITTED.



I EVEN WANT YOU TO
BECOME MY PERSONAL
SERVANT.

I WILL BE VERY
HONORED, O MY
QUEEN.



AT THE AGOGÉ.



END THE FIGHT! BRAVO, DORKIS!
YOUR PROGRESS IS SPECTACULAR.
YESTERDAY YOU EVEN MANAGED TO CUT
ICARUS. SOON YOU WILL BRING
GLORY TO YOUR BATTLE!

I WILL BE
INVINCIBLE!



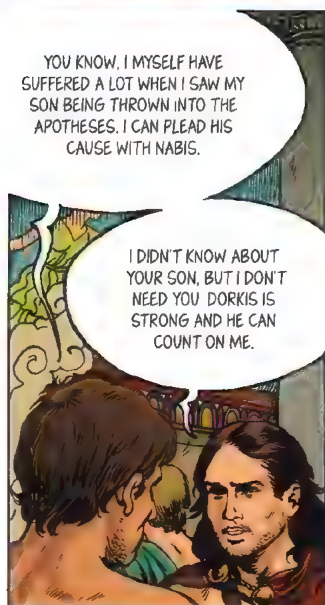
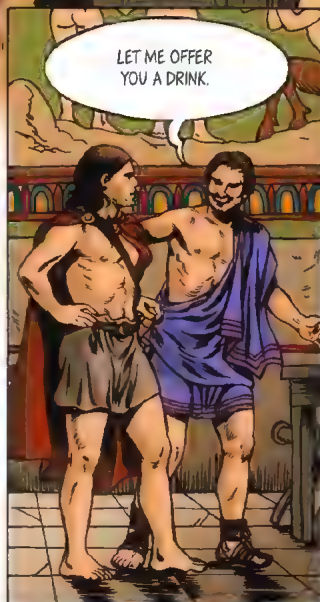
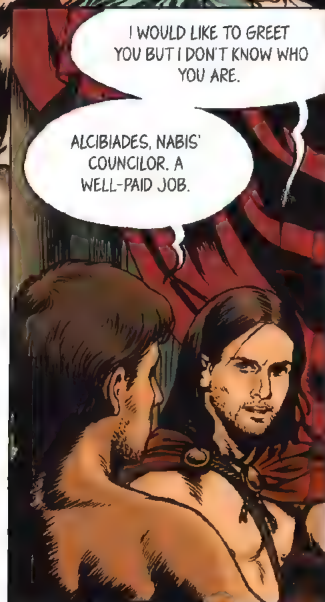
THAT'S PRECISELY
WHAT I WISH TO AVOID.

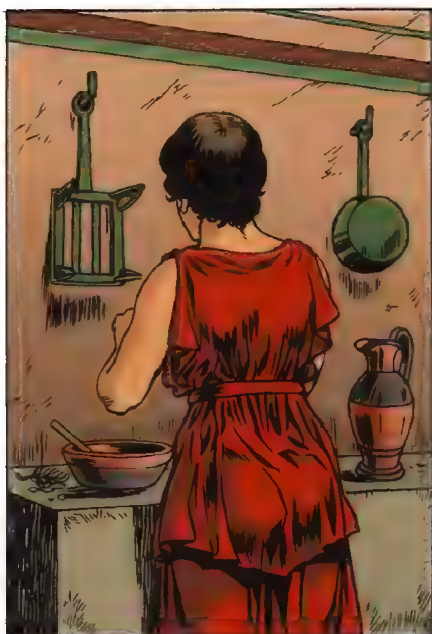


A TOKEN... THERE IS NO BETTER CLUE FOR A
PLAYER AND A VISITOR OF BROTHELS LIKE ME.



BUT THIS KIND OF HOUSE IS
WIDELY BEYOND MY MEANS.





ARE YOU SURE
OF YOUR WORDS?

YES, HE LIED TO YOU!
ALCIBIADES IS NOT NABIS' COUNCILOR,
HE'S THE PAIDONOMOS OF THE
AGOGÉ, THE ONE WHO TRAINS
DORKIS FOR THE GREAT BATTLE!

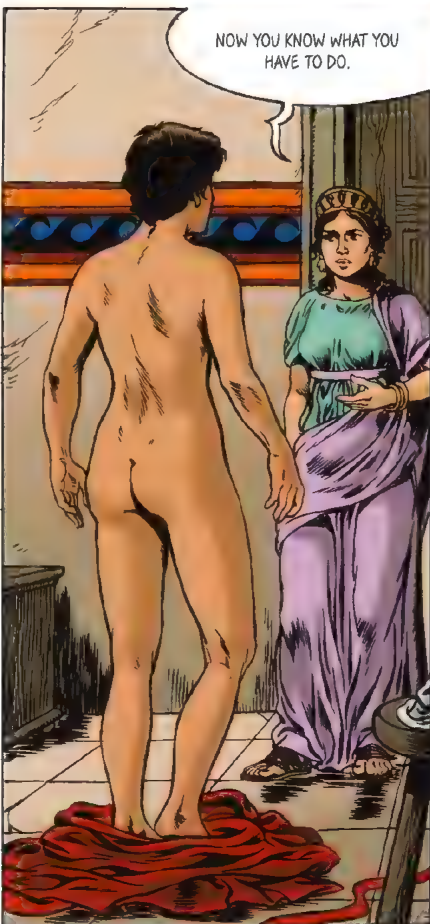
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
AND I TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS
ONLY WEAKNESS.

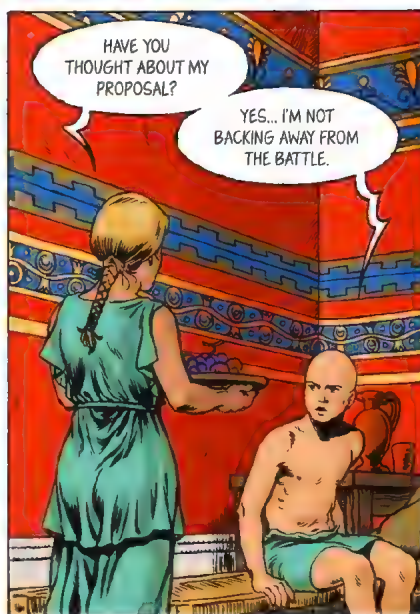
YOU HAVE TO DO IT, DAPHNE.
CONVINCE HIM TO ABANDON THIS
BATTLE! BY THE RIVER OF HADES, IF
SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO DORKIS, I
WILL CUT ALCIBIADES' THROAT.



YOU KNOW THAT MY HUSBAND HAS GOOD
TASTE! THIS GARDEN IS OUR REFUGE. IT'S
ALWAYS CALM, FRESH, AND THIS IS WHERE
WE PICK THE BEST FRUIT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT
FROM ME?







WHAT TRAGEDY!

ALEXANDROS, MY LOYAL COMPANION. YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE FOR ARGOS. DO YOU SEE WHAT MY KINDNESS BRINGS ME?

WHEN I THINK THAT I SPARED THE LIFE OF THAT WHORE... AND THIS IS HOW SHE REPAYS ME FOR MY TRUST.

YOU WISH TO CANCEL THE GAMES?

NO, I WON'T CANCEL THE GAMES, BUT I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE. AND I PROMISE YOU THIS: FOR THE SPILLED BLOOD OF MY BELOVED, I WILL SPILL IT TWICE AS MANY!

I WILL DO IT FOR YOU, MY LOVE.

AND IT'S THIS TRAITOR DIODORUS WHO IS PLAYING WITH THE VIGILANCE OF MY GUARDS. I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM INSTEAD OF WANTING TO USE HIM.

THIS PART I WILL DO ALONE AND WITHOUT DELAY.

ALEXANDROS?

IT'S TIME, ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION. FIND ME THIS SUCCUBUS OF AGESILAUS. THEN YOU WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS DOG DIODORUS. MAY HIS BLOOD FLOW IN ORDER TO AVENGE MY BELOVED.

THE CROWD IS GATHERING ON THE PLATANISTAS...

THIS TIME, I'M NOT ALLOWED
TO MAKE MISTAKES.

SO YOU THOUGHT I WOULD BE
NAÏVE TO BELIEVE YOU, NABIS' THE
COUNCILOR, OR SHOULD I SAY
PAIDONOMOS OF THE AGOGÉ...

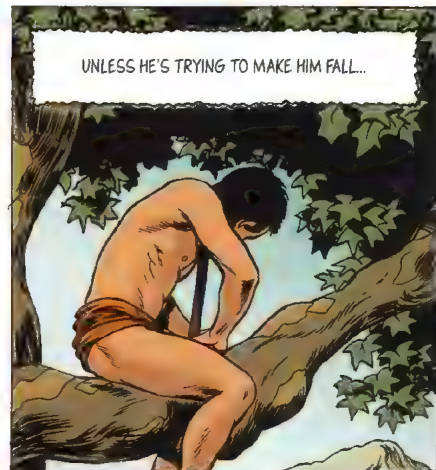
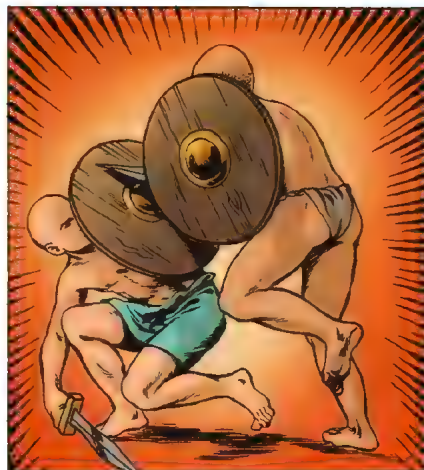
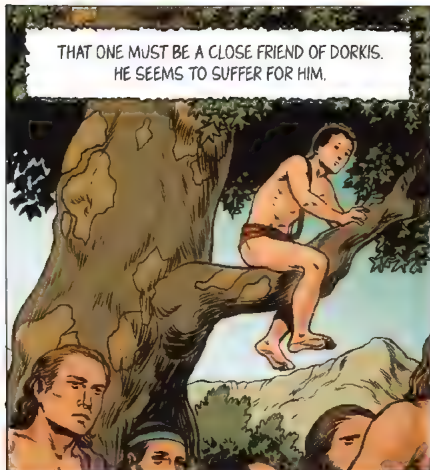
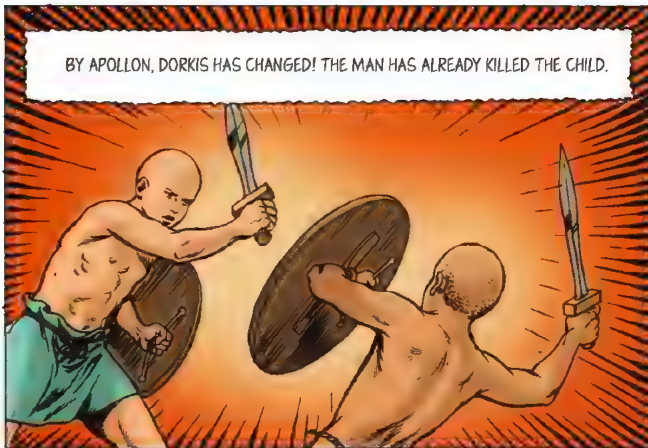
WHAT DO YOU
WANT FROM ME?

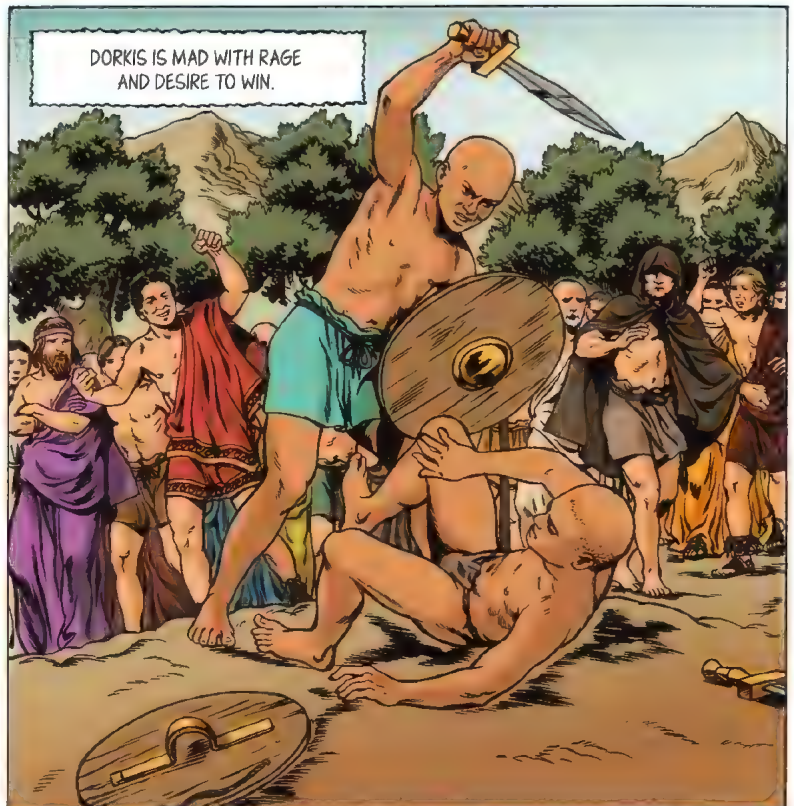
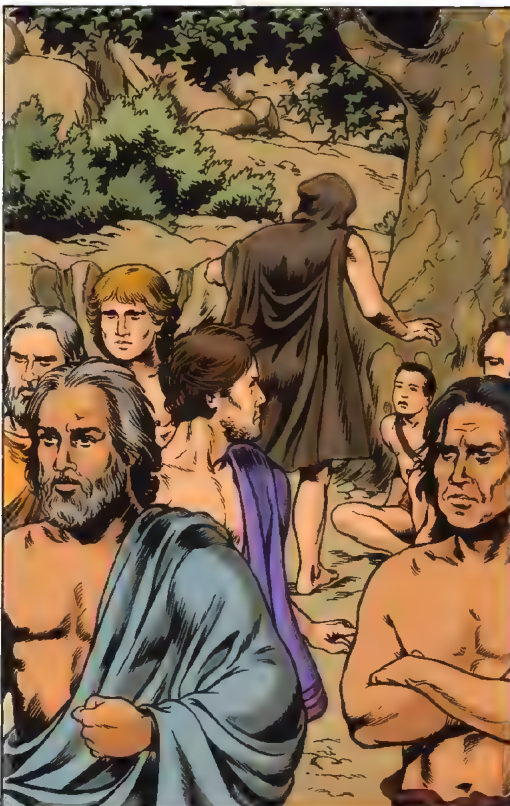
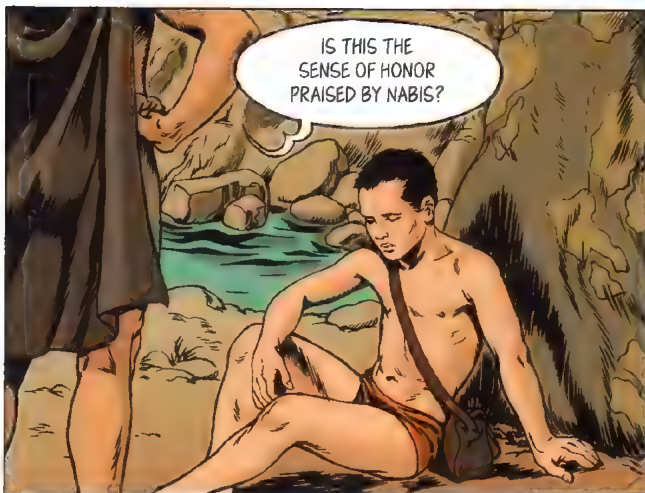
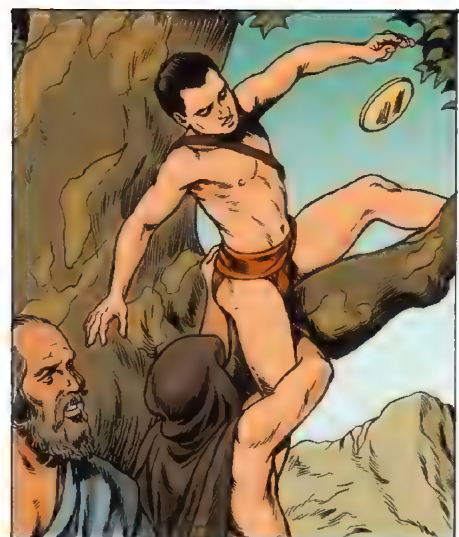
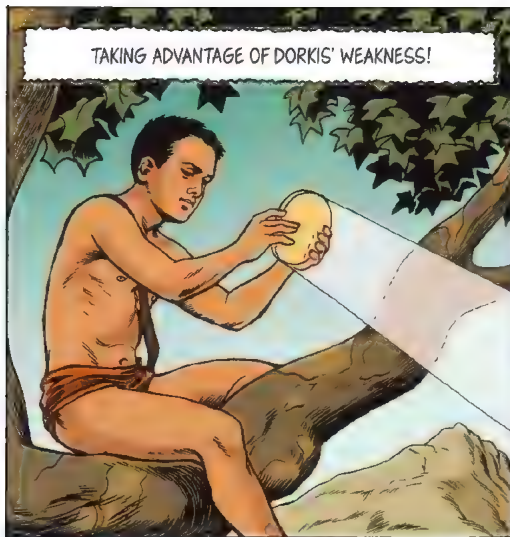
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN
WITH ME! NOW YOU'RE GOING
TO CANCEL THIS UNFAIR AND
UNWORTHY FIGHT.

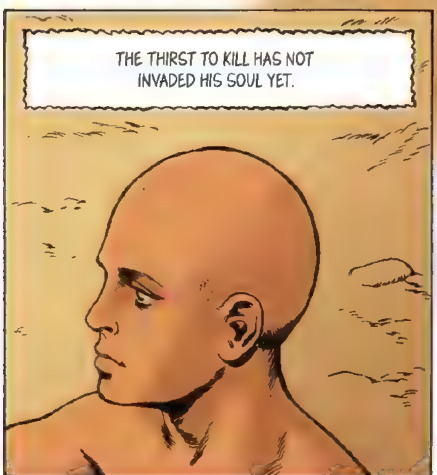
ARE YOU MAD? EVEN IF I
WANTED IT, NABIS WOULD NOT
ALLOW IT. AND HE'S NOT THE
MAIN OBSTACLE.

THEN WHO?

TWO SPARTANS WHO
REFUSE TO BE DEPRIVED OF THE
HONOR TO SPILL THE BLOOD OF
THEIR OPPONENT. NEITHER ICARUS
NOR DORKIS ARE AFRAID OF DEATH.







K... KILL HIM!



KING, I REQUEST YOUR CLEMENCY FOR ICARUS.

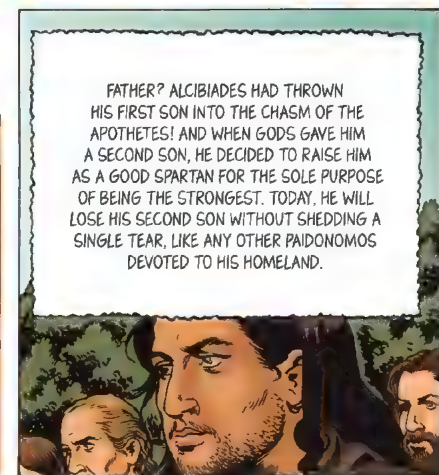


I WAS NOT WORTHY OF YOUR LESSONS. FORGIVE ME... FATHER.



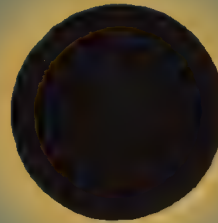
NEVER SHOW MERCY TO AN OPPONENT! CARRY OUT YOUR SPARTAN DUTY!

POOR FOOL, IT'S YOU WHO'S GOING TO DIE FOR HAVING DARED TO OVERCOME OUR CHAMPION!



FATHER? ALCIBIADES HAD THROWN HIS FIRST SON INTO THE CHASM OF THE APOTHESES! AND WHEN GODS GAVE HIM A SECOND SON, HE DECIDED TO RAISE HIM AS A GOOD SPARTAN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BEING THE STRONGEST. TODAY, HE WILL LOSE HIS SECOND SON WITHOUT SHEDDING A SINGLE TEAR, LIKE ANY OTHER PAIDONOMOS DEVOTED TO HIS HOMELAND.

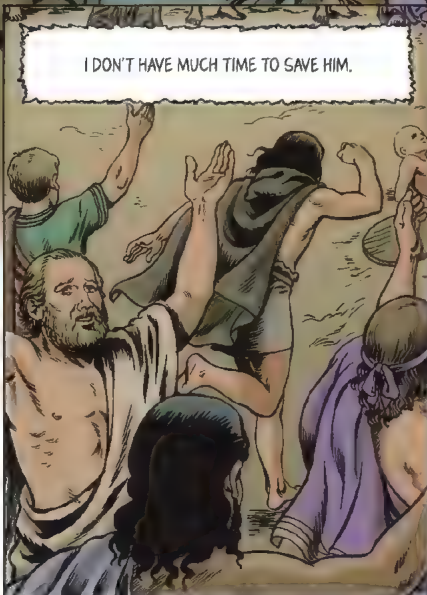
HELEN'S PROPHECY, SELENE...



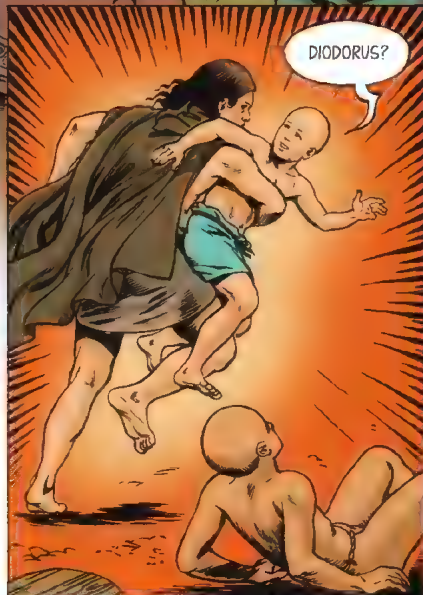
AS DEMANDED BY THE GODS, IT'S IMPERATIVE TO MAKE NOISE TO RETURN THE LIGHT.

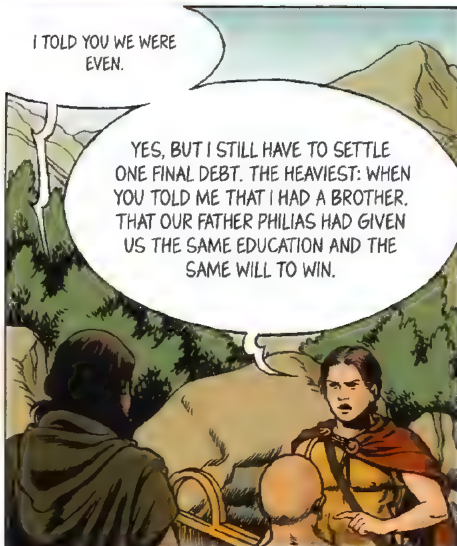


I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO SAVE HIM.



DIODORUS?

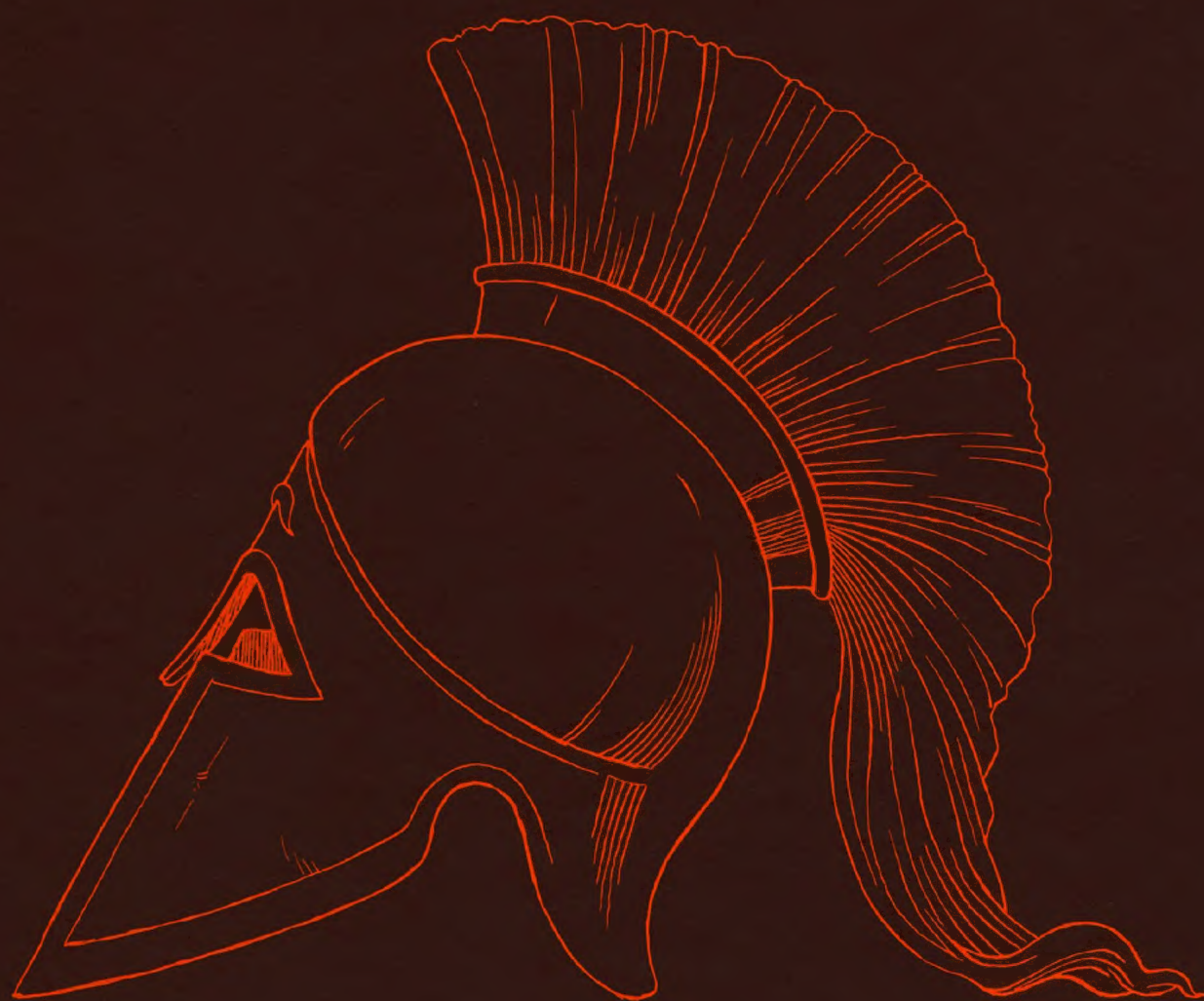






FIN.







SPARTA